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Thursday, May 29, 2008 metronews.ca Toronto

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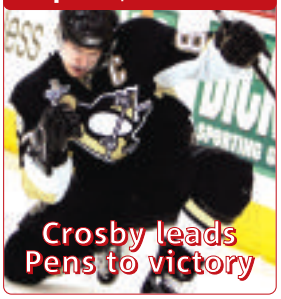

texas two-step
Ellen, Portia getting hitched at Bush ranch?
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hort couture
Ways to create comfort in small spaces for two
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lots of laughs
Star-studded lineup will attend T.O. comedy fest
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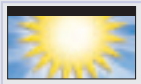

High 23°
Low 10°
WEATHER P. 29

Five dead in Calgary house

One-year-old girl found alive

By **NEIL MACKINNON**
Metro Calgary

Five people, including two small children, were found dead in a northwest Calgary home yesterday, the victims of what police called a domestic homicide that left the community heartbroken and police searching for answers.

Calgary police were called to the home around 10 a.m. yesterday after a family member came to pick up one of the children for school and noticed something wasn't right.

EMS personnel were "horrified" when they entered the house and found three adults — one male, believed to be a 2003 University of Calgary master's of architecture graduate — two adult females and two female children, aged four and six, dead, and a one-year-old unharmed female survivor, who was turned over to protective services.

"We go to calls everyday where people have died, but when children are involved, it's that much more challenging," said Calgary EMS' Paul Lapointe. "This is a pretty rare event."

Police confirmed neighbour assertions that a female renter lived with the family, who moved into the sleepy suburban neighbourhood about three years ago, but wouldn't reveal what ultimately led to the deaths, which are not believed to be random.

> « *They seemed like a nice, perfect family.* »
> *Neighbour Ken Rathje*

"These are hugely traumatic incidents," said Calgary Police Chief Rick Hanson.

Hanson said police had scoured through their records, but could find no information suggesting that police had been to the house before for any type of call.

"They seemed like a nice, perfect family," said Ken Rathje, who lives across the back laneway, remembering the children always being "happy" as they played outside every day, "even in winter."

ENZA SUPERMODEL/FOR METRO TORONTO

Cattrall brings sexy back

Kim Cattrall, who plays the sexy Samantha Jones, walks the pink carpet at the Toronto Circus School as she arrives for the Sex And The City party after the VIP movie premiere last night. **City gets ready, page 3.**

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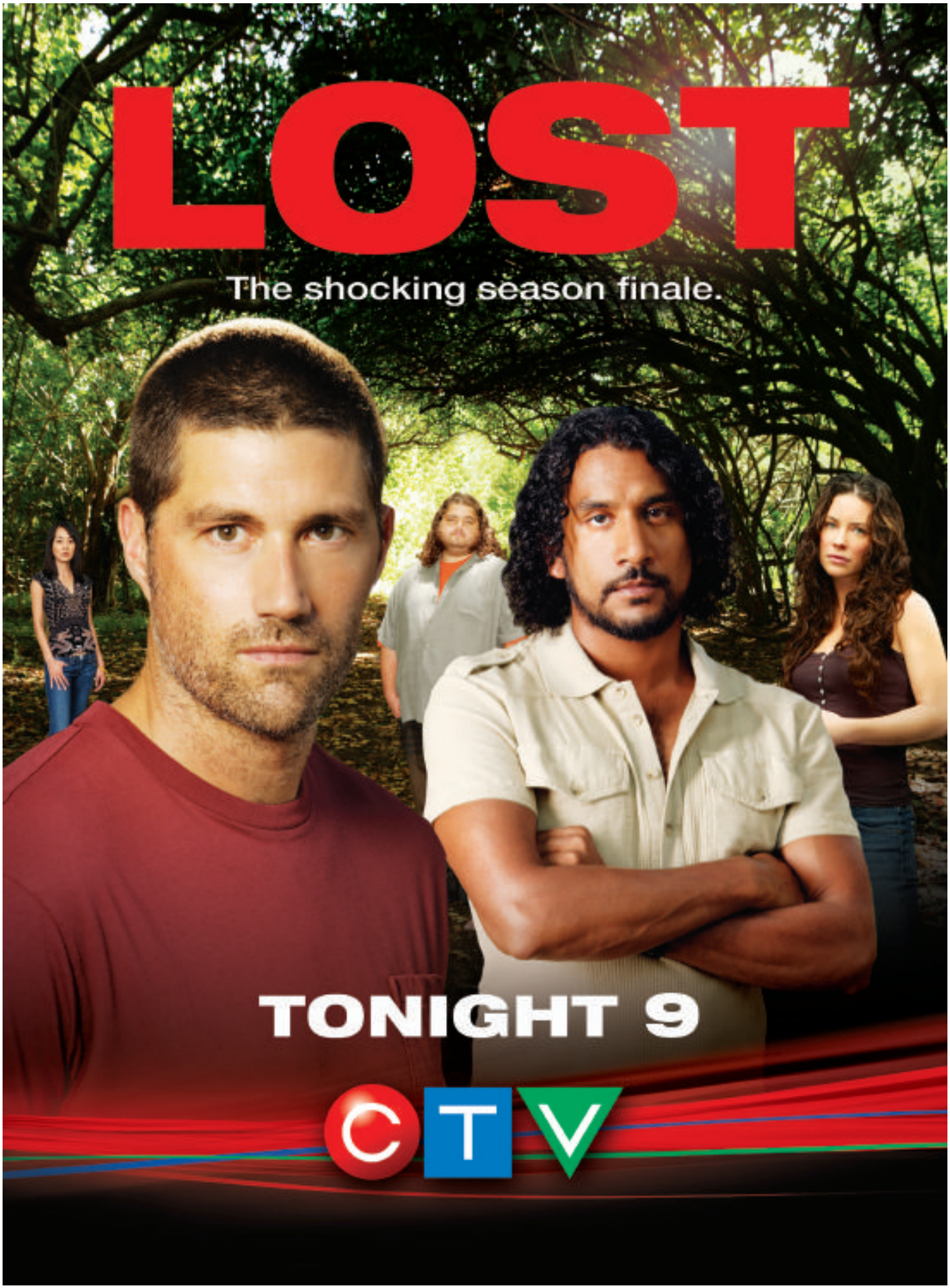
LOST
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toronto

A Ghost Bike — a bike to remember a cyclist who died in a street accident — will be placed this morning at Eglinton Avenue near Braemar Avenue in memory of a 57-year-old man who died last week. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Citytv
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PMO, spy agents met over Bernier case, MP alleges. » 6

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Fire up both grill and imagination for best BBQ, chef says. » 18

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Working out becomes more fun with Nintendo's Wii Fit. » 21

in tomorrow's metro

movies
Will Jessica Parker and gang impress with the film version of Sex and The City?

Shooting near school

Slain teen not student of nearby institution: Cops

A 19-year-old was shot dead at close range yesterday morning on a sidewalk across the street from a northeast Toronto high school.

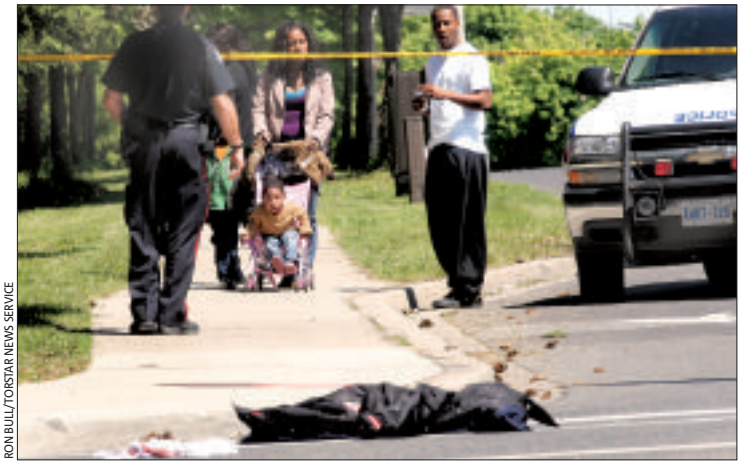
The victim, who Toronto police Det. Sgt. Dan Sheppard said was targeted by his killer, did not attend Blessed Mother Teresa Catholic Secondary School, school administrators and police said.

"I want to make sure it's well-known at this point that the school has nothing to do with this," Sheppard said.

Sheppard said there is "no indication at this point" that the murder has "anything to do with any gangs," which have plagued the neighbourhood near the school in the past.

The victim, shot "multiple" times around 10:30 a.m., was rushed to Centenary hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Police did not identify him yesterday.

The shooting occurred on the northwest corner of Sewells Road and McLevin Avenue. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



RON BULL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Pedestrians view clothing on the ground yesterday at the scene where a 19-year-old man was shot to death at Sewells Road and McLevin Avenue.

»news In Brief

» **BOARD** A new report on Toronto Catholic District School Board trustee spending has been deferred until June 4 to see if trustees can both balance their books and improve their spending habits. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ukraine leader woos businessmen

Pointing to his country's emerging agriculture sector, steady economic growth and recent ascension into the World Trade Organization, Ukrainian President Victor Yushchenko called on Canadian business leaders yesterday in Toronto to pump more investment into Europe's "breadbasket."

Yushchenko also announced that Ukraine's Ministry of Fuels and Energy has signed a memorandum of understanding with Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. to study CANDU nuclear technology.

Yushchenko received a rousing reception during a meeting earlier in the day with members of the city's Ukrainian community. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto gets ready for night of Sex

It's been four years since we've last had Sex — Sex And The City — and local fans are pumped for the movie spinoff, premiering tomorrow.

There are billboards and promotions all over town, involving everything from Manolos to mani-pedis and martinis. A group of powerwomen has even rented the VIP Varsity Theatre on Saturday to screen the film dressed in their best Carrie Bradshaw.

Kim Cattrall was the celeb guest at the VIP invitation-only pink carpet premiere last night at the Scotiabank Theatre and after party at the Toronto Circus School. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

drinks

» Tonight's Pink Carpet Soirée/fundraiser at Satori Supper Club will be serving five special SATC martinis named after the show's characters, and the new Cosmopolitan.

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IN TRANSIT
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Have you noticed a rash of noisy brakes on TTC vehicles — either above or below ground?

A few readers have written me about squealing subways and, on recent occasions, I've seen riders covering their ears as a train pulls in.

Maggie Cleveland of Toronto writes that whenever her regular ride, the 79 Scarlett Road bus, comes to a stop "there is this ungodly screeching noise." She has noticed the problem since the winter, writing, "I have to plug my ears — it is that bad. Maybe I just have sensitive ears."

She also remarks on travelling the Yonge subway: "That strip of track between Wellesley and College has a screeching noise as well."

I forwarded several such e-mails to the TTC, and the responses include, "We will look into the buses that are running on Scarlett Road and take the corrective action that's required now that it has come to our attention."

Subway officials report that the "S" curve between Wellesley and College has lubricators that need to be adjusted "when the temperature changes." Track crews are to visit the location and will "make the required adjustments."

I am also told by the TTC that tracks north of Dupont station had "severe corrugation" and workers performed rail grinding there. Subway riders between Eglinton and Rosedale stops may also have noticed a smoother, faster ride as the agency has recently been "tamping this track and adjusting the alignment and ballast between the rails."

Back to the squeaky brake issue. TTC spokesperson Mike DeToma reports "no consistent problems with bus or subway brakes," save for noise from new brake shoes that "quickly diminishes."

DeToma also passed this along: "Most buses produce some amount of brake noise regardless of age or condition. But it's not a frequent problem with the TTC bus fleet. If customers or operators or maintenance crews identify noisy brakes, they will be inspected and any required repairs will be performed."

Asked if there is any regular noise testing, he replies, "The TTC does test levels when specific concerns are received from riders; past experience has come in at below acceptable exposure levels."

In recent years few people contacted the TTC about noises coming from streetcars or subway trains, and even the "Subway Rail Noise and Vibration" category earned just 121 objections in 2006, 89 in 2007, and 58 so far this year.

I balance these statistics with a refrain often heard from readers — there's no use complaining to the TTC. A case in point is the Scarborough RT. The few times I have taken the "toy train," it was quite loud inside — and yet the TTC registered only a handful of complaints in 2006, and none since then. It's possible RT regulars are just resigned to the whine.

What are the odds that a noise complaint to the TTC is actually resolved? More on that later.

Ed Drass has been covering transportation issues in Toronto since 1998. He has a degree in urban studies from York University and regularly rides transit in the GTA and elsewhere.

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»news In Brief

» **COURT** A 21-year-old arrested during a series of Tuesday morning raids appeared briefly in bail court yesterday, only to have his bail hearing amended to June 3. The raids followed a Toronto-police led Asian Organized Crime Task Force investigation into an April 22 abduction and shooting. Chanh Duc "Hector" Ho faces 11 charges, including kidnapping and attempted murder after a 25-year-old man was abducted near Bayview and Finch avenues, then shot and left for dead in a rural area east of Newmarket.

» **DEAL** Ontario Northland and GO Transit have agreed to a deal to refurbish an additional 50 train cars at a facility in North Bay. Ontario Northland's refurbishing contract is now valued at $81 million and covers work on a total of 121 GO Transit commuter cars. The company has refurbished 44 commuter cars thus far.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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canada

A procession led by a Chrysler and 83 other vehicles — all coloured red — will travel from Trenton to Toronto this weekend to commemorate the lives of Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tories deny CSIS involvement

PMO, spy agency met over Bernier case, MP alleges

Officials from The Prime Minister's Office and CSIS agents met early this month to discuss Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier's controversial relationship with a woman known to have ties with biker gangs, Liberal MP Ujjal Dosanjh charged yesterday.

The meeting was held between May 1 and 8, according to Dosanjh. May 8 was the day the first news reports appeared detailing Julie Couillard's past romantic links to prominent members of Quebec biker gangs.

Bernier resigned Monday from cabinet just hours following revelations that Bernier left the secret documents at her home.

During question period yesterday, Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day refused to confirm or deny whether the meeting with Canadian Security Intelligence Service agents took place.

"All these questions have been thoroughly answered and I hope the member opposite is not so naive as to think that meetings between CSIS members and the prime minister on any subject would be a matter of total public record," Day said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

security contract draws fire

» According to Parti Québécois, a firm whose principals once included a former boyfriend of Couillard won a $158,000 government contract last year to escort detainees from Quebec's jails. Robert Pépin was a convicted felon who owed debts to a loan shark with direct ties to the Hells Angels.

Nationwide rallies to mark native day

Protests expected to be peaceful

Students from the remote northern Ontario reserve of Attawapiskat will take centre stage as thousands of people gather in the capital and across Canada for today's national native day of action.

They'll ask for something most kids take for granted: A decent elementary school and a shot at success.

But the Conservative government, despite once-hefty surpluses and tax cuts worth billions of dollars, says Attawapiskat's needs are eclipsed by even more pressing ones on other First Nations.

Child poverty is the focus of what's expected to be a peaceful day of rallies and speeches today in most parts of Canada. The national Assembly of First Nations says no major road or rail blockades are expected. THE CANADIAN PRESS

chief's warning

» An aboriginal land dispute in southern Ontario and a mining clash in the province's north that led to the jailing of six activists will worsen if the federal government fails to intervene, Assembly of First Nations Chief Phil warned Tuesday.

Ontario **Tour bus catches fire**

DARCY CHEEK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prescott Fire Department firefighters pour water into both sides of a tour bus that burst into flames near the exit to the town on Highway 401 yesterday afternoon. All the passengers and driver escaped without injury.

Transport Canada clueless: Audit

Transport Canada doesn't know whether its vehicles are used strictly for government business because of shoddy record-keeping and lax oversight, says a recent audit.

Auditors found the department's vehicle logbooks are so light on detail that it struggles to keep track of its fleet.

"Even though most dedicated vehicles remain at the workplace overnight," the report says, "there is no assurance that vehicles are not used between offices and personal residences, particularly at remote sites with limited supervision."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. killer seeking 4th trial in Virk case

More than a decade after his daughter was swarmed by a group of teenaged girls, beaten and later drowned, Manjit Virk is still attending the hearings of those convicted of killing his daughter.

"I don't want to call it the justice system anymore. I'll call it the legal system," he said yesterday, after listening to another B.C. Court of Appeal hearing for the woman convicted in 14-year-old Reena Virk's death.

In the same courtroom where Manjit Virk listened to her lawyer argue for a new trial, Kelly Ellard sat staring at the floor under the guard of a female sheriff.

A 15-year-old at the time of the killing more than a decade ago, Ellard was convicted of second-degree murder at her most recent trial in 2005. If Ellard's lawyer, Peter Wilson, can convince the three appeal court judges that Ellard deserves a new trial, it would be her fourth.

Manjit Virk and his wife Suman have attended countless hearings, trials and appeals in connection to Reena's death in November 1997.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

appeal

» Defence lawyer Peter Wilson told the appeal court panel that Ellard's conviction was based on lies, rumours and inconsistent evidence.

»news In Brief

» **TRIAL** A Winnipeg mother will face a third trial in the death of one of her infant triplets. A spokeswoman for Manitoba's Justice Department says the Crown intends to retry Michelle Camire for the October 2004 death of three-month-old Michael Helgason. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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84% of Grade 10 kids pass literacy exam

Boys still lagging behind girls in Ontario

gender gap

» About 80 per cent of boys who wrote the test passed, compared to 88 per cent of girls, a gap that has remained roughly the same for the past five years.

A steady 84 per cent of Ontario's Grade 10 students have passed the compulsory literacy test this year, but teenagers in the more hands-on applied program still lag behind, with only 62 per cent passing.

Just as the overall pass rate remained the same as last year for the 145,603 English-language students who wrote the test this March, so did the traditional gaps — boys continued to lag behind girls, new English speakers fared worse than those whose mother tongue is English, and students with special needs continue to struggle to pass.

Yet each of these groups has made strides over the past five years, noted Marguerite Jackson, chief executive for the province's testing body, Education Quality and Accountability Office. She said this proves programs aimed at boosting literacy are "making a difference."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

»news In Brief

» **LANGUAGE** The B.C. government has accepted an offer from China to fund Chinese-language courses in British Columbia. Premier Gordon Campbell signed a memorandum of agreement to provide free online language courses to British Columbians during a visit to China earlier this month.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Illiteracy plagues Afghan cops

Canadian development officials in Ottawa are considering the idea of funding a literacy program specifically aimed at Afghan Uniformed Police in Kandahar — a proposal that would bring 340 officers up to a Grade 4 level of reading and writing.

According to estimates, approximately 80 per cent of Afghan Uniformed Police officers in Kandahar are illiterate.

"It's a huge problem," said Sgt. Paul Wassill, a Durham Regional Police officer working at the provincial reconstruction base. "It's hard to comprehend when we come from a country where it's a given that everyone reads and writes."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Visit Blair promotes bio

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cherie Blair drinks a cup of tea yesterday as she speaks with media in Toronto. She was in the city to speak about her memoir Speaking For Myself.

PM shows green face to Europe

Prime Minister Stephen Harper began his mission to overhaul Canada's tattered environmental image in Europe yesterday by playing up Canada's protection of the Arctic.

In a 10-minute speech to a UN environment conference in Bonn, Germany, Harper said Canada was the first industrialized country to ratify a biodiversity treaty in 1992 and made protection of the Arctic environment one of his priorities.

speech

» Harper will speak to the Canada-United Kingdom Chamber of Commerce in London today to defend his strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"Canada is working hard to build and expand its network of protected areas," Harper said.

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Smart Centre Bolton

BOWMANVILLE
Clarington Place

BRAMPTON
59 First Gulf Blvd. #8
100 Great Lakes Dr. #118
10086 Hurontario St. #1
Airport & Hwy 7
Bramalea City Centre
Shopper's World

BURLINGTON
1100 Walker's Line
Appleby Crossing
Burlington Mall
Mapleview Mall

CAMBRIDGE
499 Hespeler Rd.
Cambridge Centre

COBOURG
Northumberland Mall

COOKSTOWN
Cookstown Outlet Mall (kiosk)

DON MILLS
Two Park Centre

ETOBICOKE
Cloverdale Mall
Sherway Gardens
Woodbine Centre

GEORGETOWN
330 Guelph St., Suite A

LINDSAY
229 Kent St.
Whitney Town Centre

MAPLE
2810 Major Mackenzie Dr., Unit #6

MARKHAM
7357 Woodbine Ave., Unit #4
Market Village
Markville Shopping Centre
Pacific Mall

MILTON
377 Main St. E.

MISSISSAUGA
980 Eglinton Ave. E.
2800 Skymark Ave., #6
6965 Davand Dr., #12
Dixie Value Mall
Erin Mills Town Centre
Heartland Power Centre
Sheridan Centre
Smart Centres Westgate
Square One Shopping Centre
Square One Shopping Centre – kiosk

NEWMARKET
Upper Canada Mall

NORTH YORK
170 Rimrock Rd.
2081 Steeles Avenue West
Bayview Village
Crossroads Plaza
Empress Walk
Lawrence Square
North York Sheridan Mall
Sheppard Centre
Yorkgate Mall

OAKVILLE
Hopedale Mall (kiosk)
Oakville Place
Winston Power Centre

ORANGEVILLE
114 Broadway Ave.

OSHAWA
Five Points Mall
Oshawa Centre

PICKERING
Pickering Town Centre
Steeple Hill Shopping Centre

RICHMOND HILL
Hillcrest Mall
Richmond Heights Plaza
Time Square Shopping Centre Building A

SCARBOROUGH
259 Morningside Avenue
Bridlewood Mall (kiosk)
Cedarbrae Mall (kiosk)
Eglinton Square
Kennedy Commons
Malvern Town Centre
Parkway Mall
Scarborough Town Centre
Woodside Square

SUDBURY
Brady Square
New Sudbury Centre
Southridge Mall

THORNHILL
The Promenade

TORONTO
85 Hanna Avenue
320 Queen Street West
455 Danforth Avenue
2171 Queen St. E.
2256 Bloor Street West
2323 Yonge St., Unit 101
Brookfield Place
Centerpoint Mall
Chinatown Centre
Commerce Court
Cumberland Terrace
Dufferin Mall
East York Town Centre
Eaton Centre
Exchange Tower
Gerrard Square
Scotia Plaza
Toronto Life Square
Yorkdale – kiosk

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Whitby Smart Centre

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world

The International Space Station's lone toilet is broken, leaving the crew with almost nowhere to go. So NASA may order an in-orbit plumbing service call when space shuttle Discovery visits next week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nepal votes to abolish monarchy

239-year reign of Hindu kings comes to end

The world's last Hindu kingdom became its newest secular republic yesterday as Nepal's legislators, led by former communist insurgents, abolished the monarchy that had reigned over this Himalayan land for 239 years.

Throughout the day, thousands of people marched, danced and sang in the streets of Kathmandu in anticipation of the vote, waving red hammer-and-sickle flags as dour King Gyanendra awaited his fate in the pink concrete palace that dominates the city's centre.

He finally found out the fate of his throne late in the day when, as expected, the newly elected Constituent Assembly declared the country a republic and abolished the monarchy by a vote of 560-4. The assembly's 37 other members were not present.

"We have entered a new era today," said Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, calling Nepal's rebirth as a republic "the dream of the whole nation."

There was no immediate reaction from the 61-year-old king. He now has 15 days to leave the 1970s-era palace and move to his large private residence in the city, or face the possibility of being removed by force.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

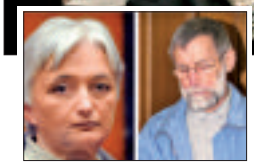
forced from throne

» Not since the Shah of Iran was deposed in the bloody 1979 Islamic revolution has one of the world's monarchs been forced from his throne.

Virgin killer, wife sentenced to life

Couple convicted in sex murders of seven girls

THIBAULT CAMUS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Marie Jeanne Laville, mother of one of the victims of French serial killer Michel Fourniret, holds a photograph of her daughter Isabelle in France yesterday. Inset: Monique Olivier and her husband Fourniret.

A man accused of seeking young virgins to rape and kill was convicted yesterday of seven murders and sentenced to life in prison.

Michel Fourniret, 66, was given the maximum sentence by the jury in northeast France. In a particularly severe sentence for a French court, he cannot be considered for parole before serving 30 years behind bars.

His wife, Monique Olivier, 59, also was convicted of complicity in four of the murders and sentenced to life in prison. She must serve at least 28 years before she can be considered for early release.

The verdict closes a two-month trial that riveted France and neighbouring Belgium, where one of the victims was killed.

The young women, aged 12 to 21, were strangled, shot or stabbed with a screwdriver between 1987 and 2001 to feed what prosecutors called Fourniret's obsession for virgins. Fourniret also was convicted of kidnapping and rape or attempted rape of all seven victims.

The lead prosecutor called Olivier "a witch," while Fourniret's court-appointed defence lawyer described him as "indefensible."

Fourniret refused counsel and remained silent through most of the proceedings.

Prosecutors said Olivier helped Fourniret track down virgins to feed his morbid fantasies.

Belgian police detained Fourniret in June 2003 after his bungled kidnapping of a 13-year-old girl.

The girl gave authorities his licence plate number after she managed to unbind her hands and escape from the back of his van.

Olivier was extradited to France in 2005, and Fourniret in 2006. Judicial officials in both countries decided the case should be tried in France because six of the victims were French citizens.

Investigators suspect Fourniret may also have been involved in several other murders.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thousands evacuated as China starts to rebuild

Nearly 160,000 people were evacuated downstream from an unstable earthquake-created lake in central China, while the government warned yesterday that rebuilding after the disaster would be "arduous."

The magnitude 7.9 quake that struck on May 12 sent dirt and rocks tumbling into valleys, blocking rivers that have developed into fast-rising lakes.

The official China Daily says some 158,000 people have been evacuated and dozens of villages emptied in case the newly formed Tangjiashan lake bursts before soldiers and engineers can drain it.

Troops used explosives to clear debris and helicopters to airlift heavy moving equipment to dig drainage channels from the lake, located about 3.2 kilometres above the devastated town of Beichuan.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

quake's toll

» China's Cabinet said yesterday that 68,109 people were killed, with 19,851 still missing.

»news In Brief

» **BABY** German police say a mother who believed her newborn baby girl had died has confessed to stashing her in a freezer — but an autopsy showed the child was still alive at the time.

» **ISRAEL** Defence Minister Ehud Barak threatened yesterday to topple Israel's government if Prime Minister Ehud Olmert does not step aside to face corruption allegations.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

memoir

Ex-Bush aide raps president on Iraq

IRAQ WAR Former White House press secretary Scott McClellan writes in a new memoir that U.S. President George W. Bush relied on an aggressive "political propaganda campaign" instead of the truth to sell the Iraq war. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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2008 VUE XR model shown

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business

Dollar		Oil	
0.35¢	C$ 101.02¢US	$131.03US	
	U.S.$ 98.99¢	$2.18	

China says it will cut import duty on pork, animal feed and cooking oil in an apparent move to cool stubbornly high inflation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prices going up

Consumers likely to pay more by year-end

High oil prices, which have already increased the price of gas, fertilizers and food, may be about to hit Canadians in new areas, economists say.

Adrienne Warren, an economist at Scotiabank, says an initial wave of increases could expand to public transportation as well as household goods and services like home cleaning and diapers.

tracking oil

» Gasoline prices will closely track the global price of crude oil, which is expected to average $130 US a barrel over the next few months.

"Through the summer and into the fall, we'll probably see increasing pressures on a wider range of goods outside of transportation such as air fares and train fares, to consumers goods in your grocery stores and your department stores." These "rely on distribution and manufacturing that are energy-intensive," Warren said.

While the price of a big-screen TV is unlikely to change because they are often manufactured outside Canada and benefit from the strong loonie, services such as dry cleaning, carpet cleaning, car rentals and couriers could all increase.

"A large part of their costs comes from transportation, going from home to home, or energy use," she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Microsoft to stop shipping Windows XP

As of June 30, Microsoft will no longer ship the older Windows XP to retailers and to hardware companies that make PCs, forcing an eventual switch to Windows Vista operating system.

Microsoft Corp. Canada's Elliot Katz said Microsoft has left the XP line in the marketplace longer than it intended due to consumer demand.

Windows XP support ends on April 14, 2009, he said. Security updates for XP will continue to be made available until April 8, 2014.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gold coin **No small change**

LILLI STRAUSS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A visitor takes a look at the world's biggest and most expensive gold coin, the Canadian Maple Leaf, at Vienna's art history museum yesterday. The coin weighs 100 kilograms and is worth about $ 3.2 million US. It is one of five such coins worldwide and is on permanent loan to the museum from an Austrian company.

»news In Brief

» **OIL** Indonesia said yesterday it is pulling out of the 13-nation Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries because it consumes more oil than it exports. It has had to import oil for years because of aging wells and disappointing exploration efforts. Corruption and red tape has scared foreign investors away.

» **INTERNET** Online banking and other Internet transactions may not be as secure as many Canadians believe, say law-enforcement officials who accuse private-sector organizations like banks of not telling police when cyber criminals strike.

» **JOB CUTS** Ford Motor Co. plans to conduct involuntary layoffs of white collar salaried employees by Aug. 1 as part of a restructuring in the face of slumping sales and record-high gas prices, a spokeswoman said yesterday. She said that unlike previous rounds of layoffs in recent years, employees won't be offered voluntary buyout packages with financial or early retirement incentives.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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sports

NBA coach of the year Byron Scott, left, and the New Orleans Hornets agreed in principle to a contract extension yesterday. The New Orleans Times-Picayune reports it's a two-year deal worth $12 million US. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sid gets Pens back in final

Crosby pots pair as Pittsburgh closes series lead

PENGUINS 3 WINGS 2

Sidney Crosby scored Pittsburgh's first two goals of the series and Adam Hall got the game winner as the Penguins gave themselves new life with a 3-2 victory over the Detroit Red Wings in Game 3 of the Stanley Cup final last night.

The Red Wings, who shut out Pittsburgh in consecutive games in Detroit, lead the best-of-seven series 2-1 with Game 4 set for Saturday night at Mellon Arena.

"We still have to keep going, but for sure we needed this one," said Crosby. "We all earned it, and that's the reward. A big win."

The Penguins improved to 9-0 in home games in this year's playoffs and won for the 17th straight time in their home rink.

Johan Franzen scored his playoff-leading 13th goal and Mikael Samuelsson also scored for the Wings, who bid farewell to their six-game Stanley Cup final winning streak started in their five-game win over Carolina in 2002.

The sellout crowd of 17,132 was in a roar as Hall gave Pittsburgh a 3-1 lead 7:18 into the third period, banking a shot in off scrambling goalie Chris Osgood's back from behind the net.

But a seeing-eye shot from the right boards by Samuelsson — his third of the series — went in off the stick of Penguins defenceman Brooks Orpik and past goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury with 6:23 left to play, setting up a nervy ending for the young Penguins as Detroit pressed for the equalizer.

Their troubles were compounded when Evgeni Malkin took a hooking penalty with 4:18 left to play. Pittsburgh killed it off, then held on the rest of the way.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DAVE SANDFORD/GETTY IMAGES

Penguins captain Sidney Crosby celebrates a first-period goal as he flies past Detroit Red Wings goaltender Chris Osgood last night during Game 3 of the Stanley Cup final in Pittsburgh. Crosby's goal broke the Pens' Cup final futility streak without scoring at just under seven periods.

Celtics one win from finals

CELTICS 106 PISTONS 102

Kevin Garnett scored 33 points, including a pair of clutch free throws in the dying seconds of the fourth quarter, as the Boston Celtics got past the Detroit Pistons 106-102 last night in Game 5 of the NBA Eastern Conference finals.

The win gives the Celtics a 3-2 series lead as the action shifts back to Detroit for Game 6 tomorrow night.

Ray Allen scored 29 points for Boston, while Kendrick Perkins added 18 points and 16 rebounds in the win.

Chauncey Billups led the way for the Pistons in the losing cause with 26 points and six assists and Richard Hamilton chipped in 25 points.

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SAFE KIDS CANADA IS A NATIONAL LEADER IN PREVENTING INJURIES TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The Dallas Stars have locked up defenceman Trevor Daley, right, to a $6.9-million US, three-year contract. Daley appeared in all 82 games this past season, racking up 24 points (5-19) along with 85 penalty minutes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sundin eyes life after Leafs

Captain waiting to see team's direction before making plan

Mats Sundin has left the door open to playing somewhere other than with the Maple Leafs next season.

"My dream and the best scenario would be if I ended my career as a Toronto Maple Leaf. That hasn't changed. But I'm not going to say that I'm not going to play anywhere else either because I'm not really in control of that," Sundin said after after collecting the Mark Messier Leadership Award yesterday in Pittsburgh.

Sundin

"It feels like my decision is going to come after there's going to be some other stuff going on with the Toronto Maple Leafs and I'll see what happens there. I'll have to make my decision after that.

"I do think I have a lot of different options I can explore."

It was typical Sundin, a statement but with qualifiers and vagaries and, always, layered with an unwavering loyalty to the Leafs.

But Sundin seemed more willing then ever yesterday to publicly examine the reality of the Leafs' situation, and the possibility of moving on, after he picked up the Messier award at a luncheon.

He said he wants to have a firm understanding of what is going on with the Leafs' front office before he signs, if he signs, in Toronto.

"I'd like to know what's going to happen in the general manager position, whether Cliff (Fletcher) is going to be in charge this year or is there a new guy going to be coming in. I do think that's going to be important," he said.

"Obviously, what's going to happen in Toronto is going to be very interesting. And it's going to affect my decision in the future."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Armstrong accepts position with Blues: Source

Cross ex-Stars boss off Leafs' GM list

Doug Armstrong has landed another NHL job.

A source told The Canadian Press last night Armstrong has accepted a front office position with the St. Louis Blues.

He spent 16 years with the Dallas Stars — the last five as general manager — before being fired in November. Armstrong was assistant GM when the Stars won the Stanley Cup in 1999 and saw his teams post a winning record in each of the seasons he held the GM's job.

In St. Louis, he'll work alongside Blues GM Larry Pleau.

Armstrong had been linked to one of the front office vacancies in Toronto but he took the job in St. Louis before the Maple Leafs could even interview him.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NHL

STANLEY CUP FINAL
PITTSBURGH VS. DETROIT

Game 3 — Last night
Pittsburgh 3 Detroit 2
Game 4 — Saturday
Detroit at Pittsburgh, 8
Game 5 — Monday
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 8
*Game 6 — Wednesday
Detroit at Pittsburgh, 8
*Game 7 — Saturday, June 7
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 8
(Detroit leads series 2-1)
(* – if necessary)

PLAYOFF SCORING LEADERS

Name, team	G	A	P
Zetterberg, Det	12	11	23
Crosby, Pgh	4	17	21
Datsyuk, Det	9	10	19
Mari.Hossa, Pgh	9	10	19
Malkin, Pgh	9	10	19
Ribeiro, Dal	3	14	17
Franzen, Det	12	4	16
Briere, Pha	9	7	16

NBA

CONFERENCE FINALS
EASTERN CONFERENCE
BOSTON VS. DETROIT

Game 5 — Last night
Detroit at Boston
Game 6 — Tomorrow
Boston at Detroit, 8:30
*Game 7 — Sunday
Detroit at Boston, 8:30
(Series tied 2-2)

WESTERN CONFERENCE
L.A. LAKERS VS. SAN ANTONIO

Game 4 — Tuesday
L.A. Lakers 93 San Antonio 91
Game 5 — Tonight
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 9
*Game 6 — Saturday
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, 8:30
*Game 7 — Monday
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, 9
(L.A. Lakers lead series 3-1)
(* – if necessary)

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE
EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Tampa Bay	32	21	.604	—
Boston	32	23	.582	1
TORONTO	**28**	**26**	**.519**	**4½**
Baltimore	26	26	.500	5½
New York	26	27	.491	6

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Sox	29	23	.558	—
Minnesota	26	25	.510	2½
Cleveland	24	29	.453	5½
Detroit	21	31	.404	8
Kansas City	21	31	.404	8

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
L.A. Angels	32	22	.593	—
Oakland	29	23	.558	2
Texas	27	28	.491	5½
Seattle	19	34	.358	12½

NATIONAL LEAGUE
EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Florida	30	21	.588	—
Philadelphia	31	24	.564	1
Atlanta	28	25	.528	3
N.Y. Mets	24	26	.480	5½
Washington	22	31	.415	9

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Cubs	31	21	.596	—
Houston	30	23	.566	1½
St. Louis	30	23	.566	1½
Milwaukee	26	27	.491	5½
Cincinnati	25	28	.472	6½
Pittsburgh	24	28	.462	7

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Arizona	30	22	.577	—
L.A. Dodgers	26	25	.510	3½
San Francisco	21	31	.404	9
Colorado	20	33	.377	10½
San Diego	20	33	.377	10½

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
AMERICAN LEAGUE
TORONTO at Oakland
Chicago White Sox 6 Cleveland 5
N.Y. Yankees 4 Baltimore 2
Tampa Bay 5 Texas 3
Minnesota at Kansas City
Detroit at L.A. Angels
Boston at Seattle
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Cincinnati 9 Pittsburgh 1
Philadelphia 6 Colorado 1
Milwaukee 1 Atlanta 0
Florida at N.Y. Mets
L.A. Dodgers at Chicago Cubs
Houston at St. Louis
San Francisco at Arizona
Washington at San Diego

TODAY'S GAMES
AMERICAN LEAGUE
Toronto at Oakland, 3:35
Chicago W. Sox at Tampa Bay, 7:10
Minnesota at Kansas City, 8:10
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Atlanta at Milwaukee, 1:05
Washington at San Diego, 3:35
L.A. Dodgers at N.Y. Mets, 7:10
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 7:10
Colorado at Chicago Cubs, 8:05
Houston at St. Louis, 8:15
San Francisco at Arizona, 9:40

MLS

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER GAMES FEATURING TORONTO FC:
SATURDAY'S GAME
Los Angeles at **TORONTO**, 3:30

LOTTERIES

Lotto 6/49	3, 4, 22, 23, 26 & 28. Bonus 8.
Ontario 49	5, 19, 32, 35, 38 & 41. Bonus 26.
Ontario Pick 3	4 4 2
Ontario Pick 4	8 5 8 1
Encore	1548844
Daily Keno	4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 14, 20, 21, 22, 23, 35, 39, 42, 44, 45, 53, 62, 63, 66, 67.

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DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The CFL's all-time passing leader Damon Allen delivered an emotional farewell speech yesterday as he announced his retirement at a news conference in Toronto.

Allen hangs 'em up

CFL icon retires, but says he might return as a fill-in

Damon Allen finally closed the door on his extraordinary football career.

But he didn't lock it.

While he announced to a packed press conference yesterday at a Bay Street lounge that he was, in fact, retiring after 23 years in the CFL, he left open the possibility he might answer the call if a team needed someone to temporarily fill in for its injured quarterback.

"When that time comes my ears will be open," he said following an eloquent, emotional farewell. "That's the kind of situation where I wouldn't be surprised teams would think of me due to the fact I understand the game and I'm someone they wouldn't have to teach a whole new offence.

"But if the situation is not right, I'm going to say no."

The 44-year-old led four teams to Grey Cup titles in his sure-to-be Hall of Fame career while becoming pro football's all-time passing leader.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Shaky Sharapova survives early scare at French Open

Wozniak reaches second round

CHRISTOPHE ENA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia's Maria Sharapova serves the ball to compatriot Evgeniya Rodina during their first-round match at the French Open yesterday in Paris. Sharapova committed 17 double-faults, but still managed a 6-1, 3-6, 8-6 victory.

Start with this statistic on a busy, blustery day at Roland Garros: Maria Sharapova hit 17 double-faults. It bears repeating: 17.

She hammered hard serves, and they sailed long. She tapped soft serves, and they landed in the bottom of the net. And she played poorly enough overall to come within two points of becoming the only No. 1-seeded woman in French Open history to lose in the first round.

Sharapova did regroup in time to barely piece together a 6-1, 3-6, 8-6 victory over Evgeniya Rodina, a Russian teen making her Grand Slam debut yesterday.

"I don't think I'd be able to get away with not playing and not serving that well with maybe a different opponent and somebody that has more experience, a top player," said Sharapova, who placed part of the blame for her woes on swirling wind that kicked up clouds of dust on court. "But I'll work on it, and it will be better."

It was a much better day for Aleksandra Wozniak of Blaineville, Que., who upset 20th-seeded Austrian Sybille Bammer to advance to the second round at a major for the first time in her career.

Wozniak, who is ranked 140th in the world, sailed past Bammer 6-0, 6-2.

The lone Canadian in the singles draw will face 50th-ranked Akgul Amanmuradova of Uzbekistan in the second round.

In other action yesterday, Serena Williams made it to the third round for the 33rd time in 34 career Grand Slam tournaments with a 6-2, 7-5 win over wild-card Mathilde Johansson, while men's No. 2 Rafael Nadal improved to 22-0 at the French Open by defeating qualifier Thomaz Bellucci 7-5, 6-3, 6-1

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»sports In Brief

» **MLB** Gregg Zaun felt something in his right elbow after making a throw Monday and it was still bothering him two days later. To let him fully heal, the Blue Jays placed their veteran catcher on the 15-day disabled list yesterday with a mild strain and inflammation in the elbow.

» **MLB** Bret Boone has decided to retire again after a brief minor league stint in the Washington Nationals' farm system. The 39-year-old second baseman was hoping to work his way back into the majors, where he hadn't played since 2005.

» **GOLF** Lorena Ochoa withdrew from this weekend's Ginn Tribute, putting a duel with tournament host Annika Sorenstam on hold. Ochoa, the world's top-ranked women's player, left for Mexico on Tuesday night, saying in a statement her uncle was ill.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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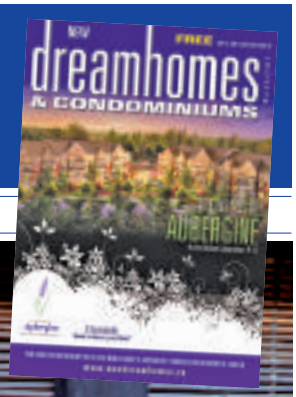

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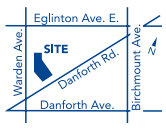

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Monarch

Powder room calls for dramatic look

Great sinks are the focal point of this small space

We love a lavishly appointed and dramatic powder room, which is a small bathroom that contains only a sink and a toilet.

We simply abhor beige and boring in this space — we think it's a design crime to waste a glorious opportunity to make a bold statement. And what's more, you are allowed — even encouraged — to decorate in a way that attracts attention. Why on earth wouldn't you grab the opportunity?

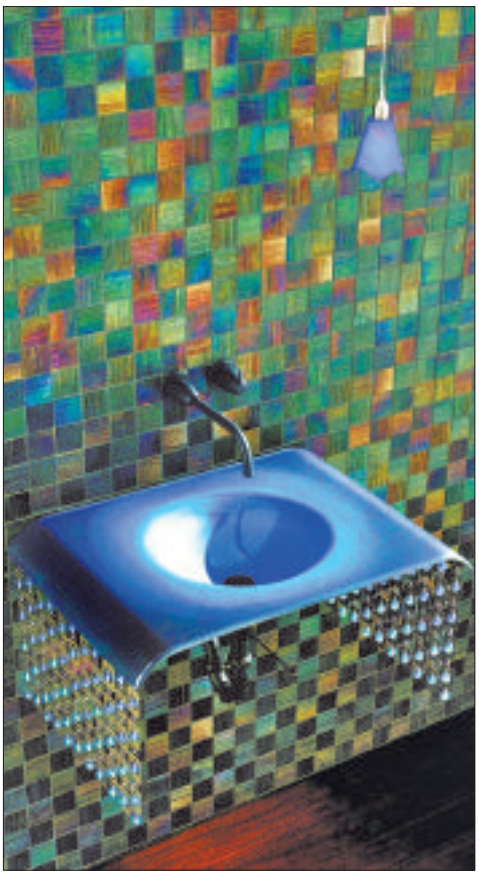
ARRESTING DESIGN
JEFFREY FISHER & TAMMY SCHNURR
busted@arrestingdesign.com

This can be a place where you can take your first tentative steps toward uninhibited artistic expression. Go ahead — consider painting your ceiling lipstick red, install wallpaper featuring large and exuberant blooms, or install a dramatic glass vessel sink — here's the place to take a chance. Here is also the place where you can experiment with expensive finishes as well, since furnishing a small place is going to cost you far less than it would cost to furnish a larger space. You have a lot of latitude — just be careful to use colours that are complementary to the colours in your house.

Remember that a powder room is also a room that guests see, and it should contain a few splurges, since it is a room that reflects on your hospitality and is also a great place to show off your own unique sense of style.

The biggest design impact can often come from the walls and ceiling in such a space. Walls and sometimes ceilings can be painted with decorative treatments, such as glazing or other paint effects. Many people also choose bright, jewel-like tones, or deep, regal colours such as wine red, deep purple or chocolate brown. These saturated tones can be stunning.

Dramatic wallpaper is also making a big comeback in powder rooms. Since this room does not get wet in the same way as a steamy bathroom with a shower or bath, powder rooms can use finishes that would not normally be recommended for wet rooms, such as fabric finish wallpaper, for example. Consider using it on the ceiling as well. Since this room should be impressive, do plan to spend a little more for an attractive appearance — a great sink and faucet are important because these features tend to be the focal point in a powder room. A countertop, if there is one, should be elegant — look for shiny finishes. And the cabinet, if there is one, should look decorative rather than strictly utilitarian-looking. Consider an antique dresser or a buffet that spans a wall — this more formal look is simply smashing. Also consider crown moulding of between three and five inches, and a thick baseboard of up to eight inches — they will add weight and an air of formality. A beautiful mirror and gorgeous lighting is also a worthwhile investment in a powder room — again, the scale is small, so exquisite finishes become possible.



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Above and right, these Moxie wall-mount lavatories by Kohler illustrate the dramatic statement that can be made with powder room sinks. Above right, bold paint makes an instant impact even in a small powder room.

Most of all, don't crowd an already small space with objects that stick out such as shelving, racks or baskets. If possible, recess these into the wall. Keep personal objects to a minimum. If the space is really tight, consider a pedestal or a small wall-hung sink to keep things architecturally clean. To add a touch of softness, add thick, luxurious towels, and fragrant hand cream alongside attractive hard soaps. And don't forget a hook for a guest's sweater, and a tiny counter space — if possible — for a purse.

Tammy Schnurr and Jeffrey Fisher are hosts of Arresting Design on W Network. Tammy is an interior decorator. Jeffrey designs home furnishings and bedding through his company Jeffrey Fisher Home.

Eco-friendly options on display at home show

Good news for power tool fans: Cordless tools are getting more powerful, lighter in weight, more ergonomic and more affordable. Not only that, they're getting green.

Those were among the advances on display at this year's National Hardware Show, an industry-only event of 3,500 exhibitors who showcased the latest in just about anything you can find at your local hardware store, home centre or lawn and garden centre.

As in other industries, the emphasis now is on environmentalism.

Here are a couple highlights:

MOWERS

Cordless mowers powered by rechargeable batteries have been around for about a decade and continue to grow in popularity since they don't produce emissions. However, push-reel mowers are coming back as a green alternative. The only energy they use are calories burned by the operator, and there is no harmful exhaust. Today's push reel mowers aren't what you may remember while growing up. They are lighter, easier to manoeuvre and do a great job of cutting.

DRAIN CLOGS

Using toxic chemicals to clear a clogged drain is anything but green. The alternative is to call a plumber or attempt to clear the clog using a drain snake, which can be cumbersome at best and lead to a real mess.

The folks at Superior Tool have come up with an alternative called the Yellow Submarine Power DrainStick: A thin 45-centimetre flexible plastic snake that is connected to a mini screw gun that fits neatly in the palm of your hand. Simply insert the snake into the drain and pull the trigger. No chemical, no plumbing bills.

Recycling cellphones and batteries from other household appliances are easy ways to help the environment.

BATTERY RECYCLING

Rechargeable batteries are everywhere — in tools, computers, cellphones, digital and video camcorders and small appliances. The problem is portable rechargeable batteries routinely end up in landfills, allowing hazardous chemicals to leach into ground water supplies.

The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the recycling of rechargeable batteries and cellphones, has teamed up with major hardware and electronics retailers to make the recycling process easier.

Today there are more than 50,000 free battery recycling drop-off locations across Canada and the U.S.

Log on to *www.call2recycle.org* or call 1-877-2-RECYCLE to find out where to take your old batteries and cellphones.

For more home improvement tips and information, visit *www.onthehouse.com*.

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Create your own solar energy

It can be done next time you replace your roof

Alternative energy isn't always all it's cracked up to be. Say you buy an electric car and plug it in at home — you're still powering it with fossil fuels. Utility companies use fossil fuels to generate electricity. So while your home may not have an exhaust pipe, it's still generating greenhouse gases.

But energy independence is not some far-off dream: High-quality solar technology exists here and now. The initial investment cost is still high, but as more and more folks purchase solar collection equipment it will become less expensive.

During the last decade we had the opportunity to install several solar energy systems.

The first one we contracted cost the homeowner more than $110,000 (after rebates). Today, that same system would run about $30,000 and will last for 40 years or more.

Calculating life expectancy against installation cost, and amortizing the cost on a monthly basis, today's average solar system will run its owner about $62 a month.

If you use that $62 a month to charge an electric car, you can replace both your gas bill and your electric bill, an obvious savings.

Since residents here live north of the equator, you will want to be sure to have your solar equipment placed so that it faces south. More sun, more energy generated. Also, don't let trees grow between the sun and the panels. Shade is to solar panels as holy water is to vampires.

Oh, and just like you can get a sunburn on a cloudy day, you also can generate solar power on an overcast day. So don't quit on solar just because you live in a certain area. Less power is generated at times, but power is generated nonetheless.

« Shade is to solar panels as holy water is to vampires. »

If you add solar the next time you replace your roof, your home will be one of the most sought-after in the neighbourhood.

And its value will skyrocket.

A solar system and a swimming pool now cost about the same, but a swimming pool will only improve the cost of your home by a few thousand dollars.

There are companies that supply and install solar panels on top of your roof and those that offer solar collectors that are an integral part of your roof shingle system.

Both are a sensible alternatives.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RON BULL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Above: Arun Mukherjee has installed panels that generate electricity and heat water in her Toronto home. "We haven't seen savings. But we haven't seen many sunny days," she says.

At right: Solar technology, like all technology, has come down noticeably in price over the last decade.

The ins and outs of pooling solar heat

Solar heating can add four weeks onto pool season ... if it's not cloudy

Heating your swimming pool with solar energy is not only environmentally responsible but can extend the swimming season by four weeks.

A properly sized solar heating system will allow you to swim earlier in the spring and later into the fall, according to Natural Resources Canada.

Whether or not you have an existing heater, you can keep your pool warmer and open longer with free energy from the sun.

"When we open the pool in the springtime, the water is often frozen; the frame of the pool is frozen, as well as the ground around it," says Colleen Simmons, owner of Enersol Solar Products, a Campbellville-based manufacturer of solar pool heaters.

"So to pour propane, gas or electric heat into your pool is a huge expense. If you've turned the solar on, you can heat up that mass," Simmons says. How long it takes to heat a pool with a solar heater depends on the weather, but it's usually about two days compared to one day for a regular heater.

Simmons says pool warming costs often rival house heating bills. Replacing a natural gas or propane heater with a solar heater could stop three to 10 tonnes of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere each swimming season, according to Natural Resources Canada. That's almost the equivalent of what your car produces in a year.

The system works when water from the pool goes through a pump and filter and then to solar panels.

The panels are 1.2 metres by three metres (four feet by 10 feet). It's best that they're installed on the roof of your house because they also gather heat from the roof and help cool it; but they can be installed anywhere.

A sensor can tell when the panels on the roof are hotter than the pool water and then it diverts the water into the panel to gather the heat and puts it back into the pool. Simmons says pool water might circulate four to six times a day and you gain 10 C to 11 C of heat.

A system costs between $2,500 to $4,000, including installation and depending on the size of the pool.

They can be bought at stores that handle swimming pools and their maintenance products. Simmons says a system will pay for itself in about 18 months. (A conventional heater costs $1,500 to $2,000.) One drawback, she says, is it isn't as effective on cloudy days.

"It can replace a pool heater, but some people keep their heater, so if they're having a party on Friday and it's been a cloudy all week, they can still throw their heater on," Simmons says. Chris Winter, executive director of the Conservation Council of Ontario, says anything that saves energy is good.

"It's the ecologically sound thing to do because you're minimizing the environmental impact of your pool," he says. "If you're investing in a pool, you should also invest in one of them."

Visit *enersol.com* for more.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

more information

» Two other companies that sell swimming pool solar heaters are Toronto-based Globe Solar Energy, which also sells solar water heating and wind power systems, and GO Solar of Burbank, Calif.

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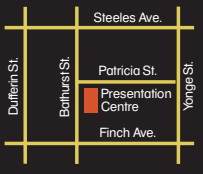

Read more in the June issue of Canadian Gardening magazine, on sale now.

Canadian Gardening

outside decor

CONTENT BY CANADIAN GARDENING

plant picks

GROWING UP Canadian Gardening asked a horticulture instructor and a garden designer for their suggestions regarding vertical plants that work in small spaces:

Jeffry de Jong, instructor of horticulture, Calgary:

- Castor bean (Ricinus communis) for its beautiful red flowers.
- Lax-stemmed roses such as "John Cabot" treated as a climber.
- Morning glory (Ipomoea) woven through a colourfully painted (try red or purple) metal trellis.

MARTIN PAGE/PHOTOLIBRARY

Ricinus communis var. gibsonii

Morning glory (Ipomoea)

Lalieth White, garden designer, Vancouver:

- Five-leaf akebia (Akebia quinata) for its distinctive foliage and unusual brownish purple flowers.
- Evergreen clematis (Clematis armandii) for year-round interest (but it's a vigorous grower, so keep it in check).
- Rosemary pruned into a topiary tree form and grown in a pot on a patio.

DORLING KINDERSLEY

Upping the ante

Vertical gardening can make the most of cramped spaces

by **LAURA LANGSTON**
contributing writer

Talk to any garden designer and most will agree people focus too much attention on the ground and forget about the possibilities of vertical gardening.

"I certainly did when I started," says Lalieth White, garden designer at Outside Contemporary Garden Design in Vancouver. "All I thought about were plants, weeds and terra firma." And that's a mistake, because vertical spaces provide a whole new gardening dimension and help make the most of every nook and cranny — especially for those working with tiny areas.

Gardening upward can also provide shade and privacy, create depth or intrigue, and even save your back by minimizing the need to stoop while you work. For small gardens, as opposed to patios or balconies, Jeffry de Jong, an instructor of horticulture at Olds College in Calgary and Olds, Alta., likes to position vertical elements away from walls and fences. "If you hug the perimeter, it only accentuates the smallness of the space," he says. Instead, he suggests using a segment of trellis to create a freestanding wall somewhere in the garden. And by placing a container or two in front of the trellis, you can draw people to a seating area or a quiet, contemplative space.

RAISE THE BAR **Pretty accents help maximize space**

Red Hampton fibreglass planter, 75 cm h x 32 cm square, $150; Hofland, Mississauga, Ont.; call 800-387-6760.

Galvanized-steel, four-level shelf in antique brown, 77" h x 16.5" w x 16.5" d; $150; Multi; call 800-705-2611.

Fibreglass fountain in bronze finish, 60" h x 20" w x 20" d; $1,080; Duracraft; 800-790-8709; *mydura craft.com*.

Iron Palisade planter with removable obelisk, 47" h x 11" square; $100; Bill's Garden Centre, 416-466-8283.

Set of three galvanized-steel wall planters in copper finish; the largest is 10" h x 9" w x 6" d; $30; Sheridan Nurseries Ltd.; visit *sheridannurseries.com* for store locator.

clippings Armchair gardeners will want to peruse this updated classic

SMALL GARDEN by John Brookes, Random House, 223 pages, hardcover, $18.95 A bestselling author since 1969, John Brookes' latest offering is an updated version of the 1989 classic The Small Garden, incorporating fresh illustrations, new materials and contemporary ideas for creating outstanding small spaces, including those on balconies and rooftops. With fewer than 100 pages devoted to plants, the focus here is on design. Chapters on landscaping styles, outdoor living rooms and more inspire readers to tackle their own small garden projects. Brookes' distinctive design process is clearly demonstrated through photographs and diagrams in the design section. The book also contains information on enclosures and surfaces — elements all too often ignored — as well as furnishings. The planting section lacks hardiness information, but does include planting plans, tips on colour selection and interesting site suggestions. Extraordinary photographs, annotated sketches and diagrams, along with Brookes' charming writing, make this a must for anyone looking to redo their own small space. — SARA KATZ

Canadian Gardening
Read more in the June issue of Canadian Gardening magazine, on sale now.

Elephant ears add dazzle to potscape

WWW.BULBPIX.COM

Colocasia esculenta 'Black Magic' (also known as Colocasia esculenta 'Jet Black Wonder'), is among the plants commonly called elephant ears.

Some design tips on adding drama to container planting

Canadian Gardening asked Pot Luck columnist Beckie Fox for inside advice on using elephant ears in containers:

CG: What are the opportunities/challenges of designing with elephant ears?
BF: As they say, go big or go home. Here's a chance to add drama to your potscape. Plant singly or use as a focal point in a mixed container. Short cultivars remind me of parasols.
CG: What kind of hardscaping (i.e., structures, paving, fencing; colours and materials) works well with these plants?
BF: Substantial, bold, contemporary-style containers in matte black, dark brown or burgundy set off their flamboyant foliage. White-veined cultivars look striking grown in a white pot.
CG: How would you integrate pots of elephant ears into the landscape? Where should they be sited?
BF: They're perfect in contemporary settings, such as on an expansive, tiered deck. Place them near a seating area, where you can appreciate the intricate ribbing and veining of the leaves.
CG: Any caveats?
BF: These plants sucker, so use a sturdy pot that doesn't split or crack easily. Their stems grow longer in shade.

HORT COUTURE Create cosy comfort in small spaces with a table set for two

Pale yellow metal ice cream parlor table, 30" dia. x 30" h, $220, and chairs, 37" h, $150 each, Giftcraft Ltd. Call 877/387-9777 for nearest retailer.

Whole Home resin wicker three-piece bistro set, 24" dia. x 28" h (table), 33" h (chairs), $170, Sears Canada Inc. Call 800/267-3277 or visit *sears.ca*.

Bolero bistro set with tempered-glass tabletop and steel frame, 25" dia. x 28" h, and two steel folding sling chairs, 33" h, $130, Canadian Tire

Iron twig-look bistro set in black, 26" dia.x 30" h (table), 38" h (chairs), $430, Rosemary & Time, distributed by Candym Enterprise call 800/263-3551 for retailers

Antiqua bar set with tubular-aluminum table with tempered-glass top, 36" dia. x 43" h, and two tubular aluminum-and-virosynthetic wicker chairs, 44" h, $1,400, Sheridan Nurseries visit sheridannurseries.com for store locator

clippings

Made of glass with a stainless steel stake, Allsop Firefly solar lights add colour and sparkle to the garden both day and night. Easy to assemble, with no wires or transformers, and a height adjustable to either one or 1.5 metres tall, these lights glow each day at dusk. Available in four styles: Yellow Calla Lily, Magenta Blossom, Orange Poppy and Blue Poppy; $42.99 each; Rittenhouse Since 1914, St. Catharines, Ont.; 877-488-1914; *rittenhouse.ca*.

native plant picks

ROBERT HOWARD, a Canadian Gardening correspondent, has two favourite picks for Ontario.

- The Tulip tree (Liriodendron tulipfera, Zone 5), is ideal for large properties. It has tulip-like flowers in late May, June.
- Joe Pye weed (Eupatorium spp., Zone 4), has butterfly-attracting flowers in late summer in clusters of pink to purple, and grows to 1.8 metres.

Joe Pye weed

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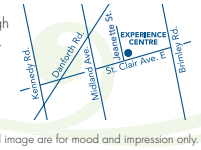

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Renderings are artist concept and image are for mood and impression only. E.& O.E. May 24, 2008.

Monarch

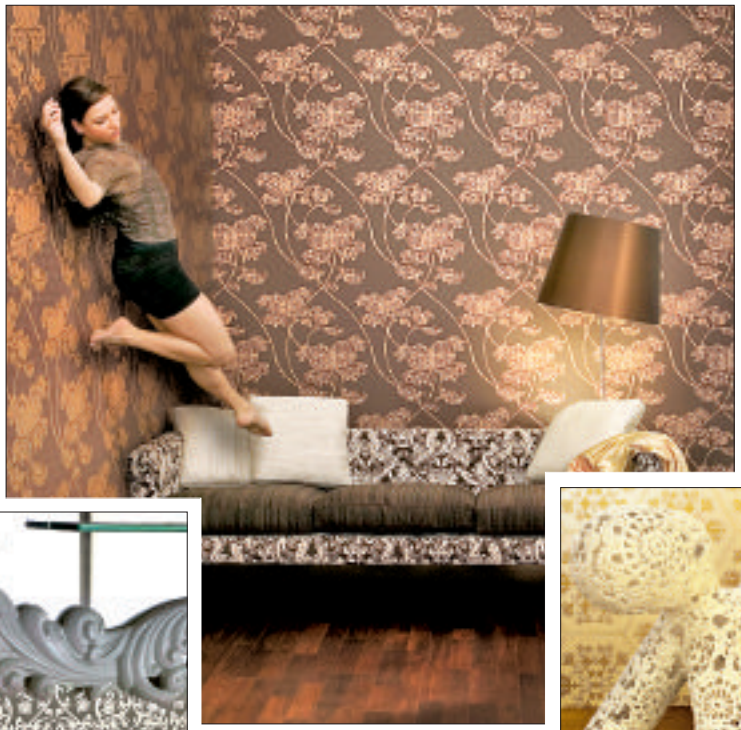
Design superstar takes on wallpaper

Marcel Wanders collaborates with Graham & Brown

Designphiles will be delighted to know that the latest big name to partner with venerable wallpaper house Graham & Brown is none other than Dutch maverick Marcel Wanders.

Wanders has created a series called Couture consisting of eight patterns named after glamorous men and women.

The rolls, which measure 10 m by 75 cm, are available through the G&B website (*grahambrown.com*) for $75 US each. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



Above, Alice in chocolate and gold.

Left, Grace in taupe cameo.

Below, Suzanne in amethyst with gold cameo.

GRAHAM & BROWN

Left, Stella in white and gold with Grace in gold cameo.

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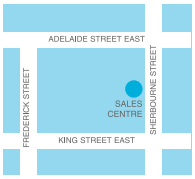

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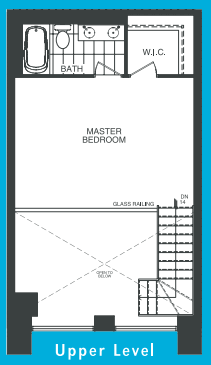
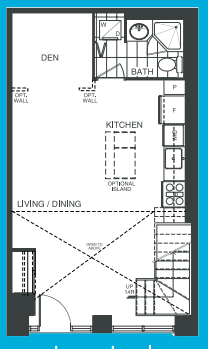


Upper Level



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Making repairs or renos? Think about safety first

Hire a professional electrician to make any improvements or additions to the electrical system. Even tasks that appear simple, such as the installation of a baseboard heater or additional electrical outlets, can be more difficult than they appear. If your are constantly blowing fuses or popping circuit breakers, it is time for you to contact your electrician. These are signs of electrical problems that could cause a fire. Do not take risks. During your renovations, remember that you can avoid risks by scrupulously respecting the following tips:

» Do you need to hammer nails or cut an opening in a wall? Shut down the electric circuits that serve the room where you are working.

» Before repairing an electric device, disconnect it The circuits of your power distribution panel should be clearly marked to show the rooms and items serviced by each circuit.

» Do you need to work in rooms containing water — like the kitchen or bathroom? Because water is an excellent conductor of electricity, you should take the required precautions: ensure that all surfaces are clean and dry, ensure that your feet are dry, connect your electric tool to an outlet equipped with a differential circuit breaker, and ensure that electric cords and extension cords do not make contact with any pool of water.

» Do you need to replace a fuse?

Before replacing a blown fuse, be sure that you have a replacement fuse of the same rating, place the master switch in the OFF position, and, before restoring current, reduce the load by disconnecting a few electrical devices. If a circuit breaker pops, this same technique must be used, and the short circuit must be found.

NEWS CANADA/HYDRO-QUÉBEC

Who prepares condo budgets?

What condo boards need be aware of

By **MARILYN LINCOLN**
for New Homes

The developer will prepare the first year's budget for brand new condominiums. Prior to calculating a budget, it is very important that a new builder acquires the services of an experienced consultant or management company.

Especially since Section 75 of the Condominium Act of Ontario requires a developer to pay any deficiency that is outstanding at the end of the first year after the condominium is registered.

In other words, if the total expenses for the first year, based on the builder's budget, exceed the amount of condo fees collected, a shortfall will exist.

This shortfall must be paid back to the condominium corporation by the builder, with the exception of any expenses attributed to the termination of an agreement under section 111 or 112 of the Act.

Each year, existing condominium corporations are faced with the critical task of setting out their yearly budget.

Boards of directors have a fiduciary responsibility to the owners. They are responsible for the management of the owner's money and are accountable to them.

When a board is considering their new yearly budget, they should refer back to the prior year. This practice will alleviate repeating oversights or shortfalls that may have occurred.

For instance, are utility rates expected to increase? Does the condominium require any additional insurance coverage and is the reserve fund sufficient or does it require topping up, etc.?

Many expenses on the operating side of the budget are fixed.

These are general, landscaping, security, management fees, mechanical maintenance (elevators), cable TV and so on.

Fixed costs make up about 80 per cent of the operating budget. Costs that are estimated are mostly repairs and maintenance of building components.

If unforeseen changes that may affect the original budget are forecast, then directors could submit a supplementary budget.

> « *Boards of directors have a fiduciary responsibility to the owners. They are responsible for the management of the owner's money and are accountable to them.* »

This type of budget should cover the expenses of the operation of the property for the remaining portion of the current fiscal year.

In the course of each year, the budget should be prepared at least 10 weeks prior to the end of the then current fiscal year.

For most existing condominiums, the fiscal year end is usually December 31 and in this case, owners will receive their next year budget and notice of common expenses in mid or late November.

Remember, the yearly budget set out for the owners is only an estimate determined by the board of directors.

If there is a shortfall, the directors will have to collect this money through a direct special assessment issued to each owner or by increasing the monthly common expenses.

Every corporation has limited funds.

A good budget serves as a tool to live within one's means.

Living within a condominium budget requires close watch on all current as well as future expenditures.

Marilyn Lincoln is a condo manager/director and author of The Condominium Management Guide 2nd Edition. Send questions to marilyncondoguide@hotmail.com

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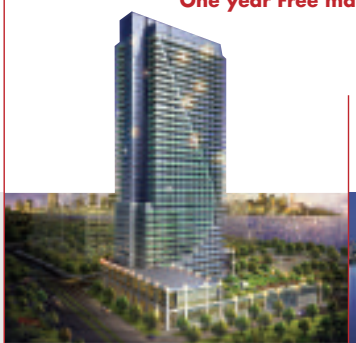

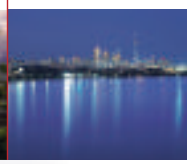

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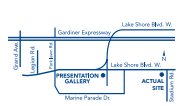

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Monarch

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Finland becomes a modern design powerhouse

Finnish design seeing passionate resurgence

With a third of its mass sitting above the cold confines of the Arctic Circle and a population of only five million, Finland would seem an unlikely wellspring of world-renowned product design. Yet some of the finest creative talent and most enduring examples of 20th-century craftwork came from the tiny northern European country.

AP PHOTO/MIKKO LAAKKONEN

Names like Saarinen, Aalto, Wirkkala and Marimekko are synonymous with practical, simple yet elegant examples of architecture, furniture and table goods that have withstood the tides of time. And the love affair with Finnish design is undergoing a passionate resurgence. Collectors and designers snap up Aalvar Alto's iconic vases and bentwood chairs, Tapio Wirkkala's leaf-patterned trays and icily beautiful glassware, Eero Aarnio's white Ball chair, and Marimekko's vibrant cotton prints. At the same time, new designers are getting a global audience.

At a recent exhibit in New York City's meat-packing district, 25 up-and-coming Finn designers displayed their newest concepts, chosen by curator Ilkka Suppanen.

Industrial designer Janne Kyttanen showed the large yet airy Palm pendant fixture, comprising 38 individual palm lights and following the foliage pattern of a real palm tree. Her Freedom of Creation company in Helsinki pioneered the use of technology to create innovative 3-D designs, which were also shown in a leaf-print textile sculpture in crimson wool by Anne Kyyr Jo Quinn.

The high-tech ideas fit the blending of nature and modernity pioneered by their countrymen.

Alvar Aalto's tripod stool and curvilinear vase put Finland on the global design map in the 1930s, but it was in the middle of the century that Finland's artists firmly established themselves as Nordic stars. The 1950s brought design awards in Milan and on the pages of influential shelter magazines like House Beautiful. The furniture pieces were functional; the tableware was beautifully purposeful; the fabric patterns were colourful, livable.

This was design at its most inventive and most efficient.

Finnish style has "almost a split personality — but in a positive way," says Ben Horn of FinnStyle, an online (*www.finnstyle.com*) and bricks-and-mortar retailer of Finnish design work.

"Modern Finnish design of the mid to late 20th century is characterized by timeless, clean, simple designs often inspired by nature and using natural materials," he says.

"On the other side of the spectrum, but equally Finnish, are the bold bright designs from Marimekko, which have been popular for over 50 years."

Fast-forward to the 21st century and the Tiger Electric Shoe, originally a commission for the Japanese company Onitsuka, which contained a miniature city within its LED-laced structure.

A dress fashioned from hundreds of linked metal circles demonstrated how technology could reverse the garment design process; rather than cutting a design from a bolt of fabric, the computer would envision the design and create the material.

Yrj Jo Kukkapuro and Henrik Enbom displayed their state-of-the-art LED and forged steel table lamp with a minimalist, industrial esthetic suited to a contemporary home office.

The Kinos ceramic sushi set from Tonfisk Design was an interesting cultural crossover; "kinos" means snowdrift in Finn, and the dish set was rendered in snowy white porcelain.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO/ANNE KYYRO QUINN, RACHEL JONES

Above: The Leaf Wall Panel by Anne Kyyro Quinn. Left: Mikko Laakkonen's Latva Coattrack.

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It's not over until the fat lady sings

The deal is not done until every detail is covered

Too often I hear stories of so-called done deals withering away because the champagne had been cracked long before it should have been. Some of the most heart wrenching and troubling real estate stories I've heard have resulted from this very occurrence.

Imagine Anuj having settled on the new home of his dreams, thinking the deal was finalized, and then finding out that all the furniture he'd bought and the house warming plans he'd made, and the visions of decorating the tree come December, had all been premature.

Worst yet, imagine Dina thinking she'd sold her home, after much hard work and sacrifice, assuming the deal was finalized, and then finding out that the buyer had disappeared and her home was no more sold today than it was before she'd listed.

Of course the worst scenario would be if Dina had already moved forward and purchased her next property.

Believe it or not, while such scenarios are not common, they can occur, and do occur when ample procedures and safeguards are not implemented to ensure otherwise.

First of all, it may help to understand why these things can happen. Recently I closed a condo deal for a friend and client. After many months of searching, the perfect condo became available and a deal was made. Without getting into too many details, the "other side" decided that they were going to try and let the deal effectively die, even after the financing and home inspection conditions had been waived.

I had very good reason to believe that a higher offer had been presented, illegally albeit attractively, during the time the home had been promised to us.

What's the number one reason some people try and back out of deals? In a word... MONEY.

For whatever reason the "other side" failed to realize that the status certificate condition was stipulated not to include weekends and holidays.

So on the day they believed to have succeeded in

THE HUNT
AMIT PAUL
amitp@rogers.com

unethically backing out of a deal, we sent them the status certificate waiver, and officially firmed up.

The reason we were able to negate their ill-advised practices was because we were very well aware of all the pertinent timelines as well as our rights and abilities.

While their side was stalling on ordering the status certificate, our lawyer sent legal notice granting an extension for them to provide us the certificate, in advance.

Meanwhile, I secured the status certificate within 48 hours and had our lawyer review it.

It was important that the appropriate notice be sent so that if the matter ever ended up before court, it could be proven that we had no intent of allowing the deal to vanish, and that we took every appropriate measure to move forward as amicably as possible.

It was also important to know that we did not have to wait for the other side to order the status certificate.

Equally important was the fact that the status certificate timelines allowed ample opportunity to act.

Any shorter period of time would not have been enough time to sense that something was peculiar and act towards remedying the situation.

By better understanding the legal ins and outs of the contract you're entering into, as well as the various seemingly insignificant details, you can aid yourself in feeling more secure about whatever transaction you're getting yourself into.

On the first page, for instance, is a space for the fax numbers of each brokerage, pertaining to delivering notices. Ask your Realtor about their significance.

Depending on whether you're the buyer or seller, personally I'd advise differently.

When it comes your time to celebrate, by better understanding these matters, you can help yourself ensure that it really is time to uncork.

For any questions/comments on this article or anything in general please feel free to e-mail Amit at amitp@rogers.com. Amit is a Realtor/Developer with Re/Max.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Plant the seeds of your future at Harvest

This Spring, Aspen Ridge will introduce Harvest Brampton — a new master-planned community on the east side of Bramalea Road, just north of Sandalwood Parkway. Purchasers will be able to choose from two different styles of condominium townhomes, one with an amenities area on top of the rear-lane garage.

The corner towns will feature courtyards and a double-door garage, adding outdoor living appeal and convenience to these innovative, value-packed designs.

Brampton provides the perfect location for Harvest. Eventually encompassing 199 townhomes, this elegant community will be nestled beside a forest setting and will overlook a lush valley.

The city's most desirable amenities are just a short drive away, presenting a full complement of excellent schools, recreation centres and superb shopping, as well as access to major transportation routes such as Highways 7 and 410.

Brampton is home to numerous parks, and from Harvest, residents can be at the fabulous Chinguacousy Park in minutes for downhill skiing and skating in the Winter, as well as baseball and soccer in the Summer. Amid the striking, architecturally controlled streetscapes at Harvest, residents will have exclusive use of a two-acre park with play areas and seating.

> *« Eventually encompassing 199 townhomes, this elegant community will be nestled beside a forest setting, overlooking a lush valley. »*

Aspen Ridge has arranged the townhomes in intimate clusters along gently winding streets dotted with boulevard plantings and green spaces.

Aspen Ridge's exteriors of brick or stone feature varying combinations of details such as soldier coursing, columns, arches and keystones. Peaked gables and a multitude of varied windows (all vinyl Low-E Argon filled) add visual interest and curb appeal to these exceptional townhomes.

The developer included an impressive roster of standard appointments in the designs, including natural finish oak pickets and handrails from the first to the second floor; art niches (as per plan); red oak laminate flooring on main floor (except ceramic areas); 36-ounce broadloom on the second floor throughout except tiled areas (as per plan); carpeted stairs with oak stringers; imported ceramic tile flooring in the foyer, kitchen, powder room, laundry room and all bathrooms; deep acrylic soaker tubs; pantries and breakfast bars (as per plan); a three-piece rough-in for a future basement bathroom; and a cold cellar.

Now in its 15th year of operation, Aspen Ridge is committed to building fine low-rise homes and condominiums.

Founded by the DeGasperis family, whose roots in the Canadian construction industry go back for over 50 years, Aspen Ridge is one of today's top builders in the Greater Toronto Area. Purchasers have come to expect the ultimate in location, design, quality and value from this exceptional builder.

The company has already established a reputation for excellence with its Gates of Countryside community in Brampton, and Harvest will follow in that tradition.

The townhomes at Harvest will range in size from 1,215 to 2,194 square feet, and are sure to sell quickly.

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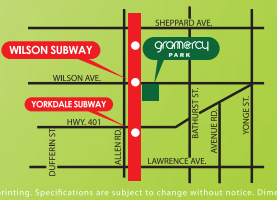

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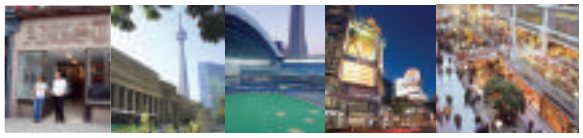

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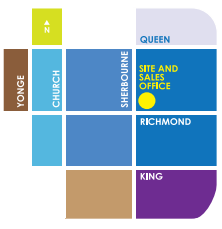

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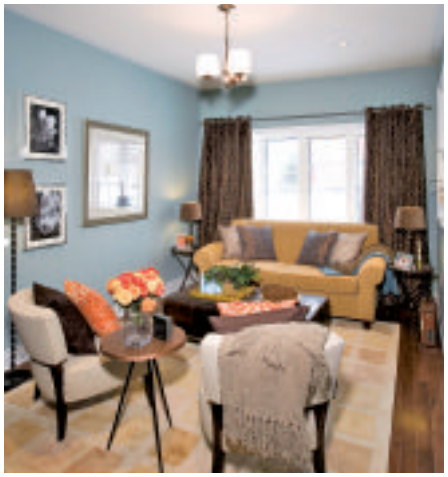
ADVERTISING FEATURE

The life of your dreams in Maple

What's in a name? At Dreamwood, the answer is: everything. The name says it all when it comes to this dream community of dream homes, with woods and greenspace nearby.

Dreamwood by Bremont Homes, now over 50 per cent sold out, is a luxury enclave designed for those who crave the finer things in life. But the dreams don't end there! One of Dreamwood's most unique features is the fact that it has already been built.



Bremont is offering this exclusive community of only 19 freehold condo townhomes with the unique pleasure of purchasing a new home with a quick closing — from just 60 days to as long as four months. Just imagine entertaining friends and relatives all summer long in your new luxury townhome. Stroll through three designer-decorated model homes for inspiration, observing the high standards of finishes and appointments in these fine homes. You can even inspect the very unit you wish to purchase, giving you all the benefits of a resale open house in the form of a brand new residence.

Enjoy incredible urban convenience, combined with the best of suburban tranquility in the heart of desirable Maple. Nearby, you'll find parks and greenspace, as well as fantastic shops and services, including the sprawling Vaughan Mills mall, the Colossus movie complex and Canada's Wonderland. Enjoy city excitement or cottage-country comforts in a snap by hopping on Highway 400, just minutes away.

At the exclusive enclave of Dreamwood, the community has been master-planned with tranquil streets featuring 19 magnificently designed homes in limited blocks of just four to six. No through traffic means residents are assured a serene family-friendly community in an ideal setting. The neighbourhood ascends to a new level of tranquility, with each home either fronting or backing onto the community's ponds.

Bremont Homes has installed extra-large windows throughout the Dreamwood homes, perfect for taking advantage of these exquisite pond views and for inviting warm, natural sunlight to flow throughout the homes. Further separating these towns from typical townhome units are the spacious, open-concept main floors and soaring nine-foot main-floor ceilings, creating a bright and airy ambience.

The list of standard features in these homes goes above and beyond anything typically recognized as "standard." For those who fancy themselves amateur chefs, the gourmet kitchens are a dream, with ample preparation space. Kitchen cabinetry is upgraded to create stylish storage space – and if you need a little more storage, head to the basement and the fully finished cold cellar. Summer entertaining is made easy thanks to backyard walk-outs, perfect for barbequing. Winter entertaining can be centred around the Great Room's state-of-the-art, remote-controlled electric fireplace, which fills the home with warmth and comfort. Other incredible beyond-standard features include 5-1/4-inch baseboards, ceramics and plush 35-oz carpeting.

At Dreamwood, your dreams continue to come true when you enjoy all the luxuries of condo living with the freedom of freehold ownership – delight in maintenance-free grounds, snow removal and street maintenance, with low condo fees helping to keep the community pristine and property values high. However, Bremont Homes' incredible bonus package means you don't have to pay those condo fees for your first two years in the home. The bonus package also gives you your choice of either strip hardwood flooring throughout the main floor, or a five-appliance package in your choice of white or black.

It's a dream deal at Dreamwood, with homes priced from the low $300,000s. But with just 19 homes available, you'll have to act fast to take advantage of this incredible opportunity.

Visit Dreamwood just east of Keele Street on Peak Point Boulevard East, just north of Major Mackenzie. Hours of operation are Monday to Thursday from 2:00 p.m. to 8 p.m. and weekends from noon to 6 p.m.

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metro TOP 5IVE

Celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay quotes:

1. "I have a very assertive way. It's wake up, move your ass, or piss off home."
2. "There are huge numbers of young women out there who know how to mix cocktails but can't cook to save their lives, whereas men are finding their way into the kitchen in ever-growing numbers."
3. "The problem with Yanks is they are wimps."
4. "Swearing is industry language. For as long as we're alive it's not going to change. You've got to be boisterous to get results."
5. "I hid myself in food."

— allgreatquotes.com

Grilling's a personal thing

Experimentation key to success, BBQ guru says

By **SANDY CAETANO**
Metro Toronto

Whether you're baking, pan-frying or grilling a chunk of sirloin steak on the barbecue, the spices and flavours you add to your meal ultimately depends on your taste buds.

Award-winning chef and food entertainer Ted Reader says barbecuing is a personal thing — what type of sauces or spice you use is up to you.

Ted Reader

"You need to develop your own flavors — but that being said, it is better to start easy with spices and sauces and develop your recipe," says Reader. "It is easier to add than take away. Play it safe and make it delicious."

Reader recently launched a new line of products, World Famous BBQ, which features 12 sauces, seasonings and rubs — including Orgasmic Onion, Shirazamataz and Crazy Canuck. "I wanted to share my favourite barbecue sauce recipes with everyone who loves to grill and barbecue. These are favorites of mine that I have created and developed over the years," he says. "Looking at the current market place and the number of barbecue sauces that are available, I wanted to create a line up of products that were more than just tomato-based."

So how much sauce or seasoning is too much? Is less really more? Reader says the best way to know what's going to work for you is by experimenting. Shirazamataz is good for steaks and lamb, Crazy Canuck for ribs and chicken but it can also go great with seafood and veal.

"Play, experiment and have fun. I provide the flavour tools and you use your imagination to create delicious easy meals," says Reader. "Just because there is an open flame does not make the food cook any faster. Take it easy and have patience."

Chicken thighs with Wasabi teriyaki glaze

INGREDIENTS:
Napoleon® Tumble Basket
12 skin-on bone-in chicken thighs
2 tbsp Rib and Chicken BBQ Seasoning and Rub 30 mL (see recipe from the Napoleon's Everyday Gourmet Grilling book, page 17)
WASABI TERIYAKI GLAZE:
2 tbsp vegetable oil 30 mL
1 tsp toasted sesame oil 5 mL
4 garlic, minced 4
1 tbsp finely chopped peeled fresh ginger 15 mL
1/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar 60 mL
1/4 cup rice vinegar 60 mL
1/2 cup Mango Barbecue Sauce 125 mL (see recipe, page 50)
1/4 cup soy sauce 60 mL
1/4 cup water 60 mL
1 tbsp prepared horseradish 15 mL
1 tsp wasabi powder 5 mL
Salt and freshly ground pepper
1/4 cup toasted sesame seeds 60 mL
1/2 cup pickled ginger 125 mL

METHOD:
Sprinkle the chicken thighs with the Rib and Chicken BBQ Seasoning and Rub, patting onto the meat and under the skin.

WASABI TERIYAKI GLAZE:
In a medium saucepan, heat the vegetable oil and sesame oil over medium-high heat. Sauté the garlic and ginger for 3 to 4 minutes, until tender and fragrant. Stir in the brown sugar, vinegar, Mango Barbecue Sauce, soy sauce, and water. Bring to a boil and simmer for 10 minutes.
Remove from heat and whisk in horseradish and wasabi. Let cool.
Preheat grill to high (500ºF/260ºC). Place thighs in the tumble basket and secure basket to the rotisserie rod as per the manufacturer's instructions. Set the rod on the barbecue, taking care to make sure the basket is firmly held. Place a foil pan directly under the basket to collect drippings. Close the lid and allow chicken thighs to sear over the high heat for 8 to 10 minutes. Reduce the heat to medium-high (450ºF/230ºC) and continue cooking for 20 to 30 minutes, basting every 10 to 15 minutes with the glazing sauce. When the thighs are fully cooked, juices will run clear and a meat thermometer will register 165ºF (74ºC). Take care to avoid contact with the bone when checking temperature.

Remove thighs carefully from the basket — they'll be very hot. Place on a serving platter and baste once more with the glazing sauce.
Serve sprinkled with the toasted sesame seeds and pickled ginger and more sauce on the side.

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Feenie loves comfort foods

Chef's favourites are family dishes

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Marcy Cornblum is a freelance journalist. After 25 years of celebrity-filled adventures, she is using her experiences to enlighten others in understanding the media. Reach her at *mediasavvy@pathcom.com*.

Rob Feenie is one of Canada's most acclaimed chefs. He is often called upon to represent Canada, travelling as an Ambassador for Canadian food products and wines. Chef Feenie has published three cookbooks, and in 2005 was the first Canadian to win on the popular television show, Iron Chef America.

Q What is your fondest memory from your family kitchen?

A Every Sunday night at my house growing up my mom did a roast. I loved everything about Sunday night dinner — the taste, smell and sense of family.

Q What kitchen aromas bring back fond memories?

A Waking up to the smell of cooking bacon on Saturday morning brings back memories of my childhood in Burnaby, British Columbia.

Q What is your favourite food to cook?

A I enjoy making comfort foods that appeal to my family. There are so many favourite dishes; home-made pastas, soups and roasts of all sorts, but especially chicken and prime rib.

Q Do you use cookbooks?

A I read and use cookbooks all the time. Right now my favourite is Mario Batali's (Italian American chef, restaurateur, TV host) book Babbo.

Q How did the first meal you prepared turn out?

A The first meal I made alone was a disaster, thankfully my family forgave me and let me try again.

Q What kitchen gadgets can you not live without?

A I need to have my over-sized wood cutting board, a high quality whisk and a few good Japanese knives.

Q What rituals from your background involving food do you partake in?

A Food is all about family in my house. My mother taught me early on the most important ingredient is love. That is something I remember at work everyday.

Rob Feenie is one of Canada's most acclaimed chefs.

Crab ravioli with black truffle beurre blanc

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN SHERLOCK

INGREDIENTS:
Pasta dough with semolina (page 138 from the book Feenie's: Brunch, Lunch, Dinner.)
FILLING
1 lb crabmeat
2 Tbsp minced ginger
2 Tbsp minced shallots
1/3 to 1/2 cup Japanese mayonnaise
2 to 3 shiso leaves, minced
2 cloves garlic, minced
BEURRE BLANC
1/3 cup rice vinegar
1/8 cup dry white wine
1 tsp whipping cream (optional)
1/3 cup unsalted butter, 1/2-inch cubes, chilled
1 Tbsp fresh lemon juice
1/4 tsp white truffle oil
1 Tbsp finely chopped black truffle or 1/4 tsp white truffle oil
GARNISH
Extra-virgin olive oil
Fleur de sel
Chopped chervil

METHOD:
This is one of the dishes we prepared on Iron Chef America — it was a hit with all the judges. We use Japanese mayonnaise because it is more tart.
FILLING: Mix together all the filling ingredients in a bowl. The amount of Japanese mayonnaise depends on the moisture content of the crabmeat—use just enough to bind the mixture. The amount of shiso depends on the size of the leaves. Stuff the ravioli according to the instructions with the pasta dough recipe.
BEURRE BLANC: Combine rice vinegar and wine in a saucepan on medium heat, then reduce until the liquid forms a light syrup. (If you are not experienced at making butter sauces, you can prevent the sauce from splitting by adding the optional cream.) Decrease the heat to low and whisk in butter, one piece at a time, until well incorporated. Add lemon juice, truffle oil and truffle (or an additional 1/4 tsp truffle oil). Season to taste with salt. Set aside and keep warm. When reheating, be careful not to boil the sauce as it may split.
TO SERVE: Divide ravioli among four warmed plates and top each serving with 1/4 cup of the black truffle beurre blanc. Drizzle each plate with extra-virgin olive oil and top each ravioli with a grain of fleur de sel. Sprinkle with chervil.

FROM THE BOOK FEENIE'S: BRUNCH, LUNCH, DINNER

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It's a winning recipe to stop violence against women.

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To find Taste for Justice restaurants near you, visit *tasteforjustice.ca* and click on Dine Out, or call 1-800-AMNESTY (1-800-266-3789).

NEWS CANADA

PLAYING THE LOTTERY STEP BY STEP

SIGN IT

SIGN YOUR LOTTO TICKET

- All lottery tickets must be signed before they can be checked by a retailer.
- Remember, signing your ticket when you purchase it identifies it as yours and helps protect you if you were ever to lose it.

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SEE IT

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- It will show you in large characters if you have won a prize and the amount of that prize.

HEAR IT

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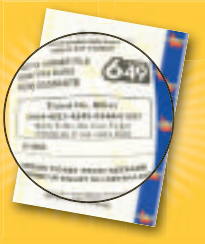

DOUBLE-CHECK IT

- After processing, the retailer must return the ticket to you with a corresponding customer receipt.
- Check that the ticket number on the receipt matches the ticket number on your original ticket.

KEEP IT

- If you win up to $300, you'll receive your winnings, the original ticket with a tear through the bar code and the corresponding customer receipt (some retailers can pay up to $999).
- If you win more than what the retailer can pay out, keep the ticket and the receipt in a safe place and refer to the back of the ticket for instructions on how to redeem.
- If you win $5,000 or more, an OLG representative will call the retail location immediately to speak to you and provide further instructions.

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The real grilled cheese

Give the classic its namesake home

Warm weather makes it a good time to put the "grill" back into grilled cheese.

A hot sandwich fresh off the grill — crispy and lightly browned outside, warm and gooey inside — is a great no-fuss, quick-fix meal for a summer worknight. It's also endlessly variable, making it easy to cater to everyone.

While any bread works well, flatbread is especially nice. It toasts well and is thin enough that the heat quickly penetrates to the sandwich fillings. Naan, pita pockets and flour tortillas are all great candidates.

As for the fillings, let your imagination go. But as a general rule, try to keep ingredients thin. Thick ingredients, such as chunks of chicken, thick slabs of cheese or large vegetables won't have time to heat before the bread burns.

This recipe calls for slices of prosciutto and provolone cheese, both available at the deli counter or pre-sliced in packages. Sliced ham, roast beef or turkey breast are nice, too. As for cheese, consider finely crumbled feta.

If you want to use vegetables heftier than the greens used in this recipe, grill or saute them until tender first, then assemble the sandwich.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

for the kids

» For the kids, a toasted peanut butter and jelly is surprisingly good. And be sure to experiment with unusual combinations of cheeses and deli-sliced meats.

Really grilled cheese

INGREDIENTS:

5 ml (1 tsp) chopped hot or sweet pickled peppers
15 ml (1 tbsp) Dijon mustard
2 large flatbreads (such as flour tortillas, a pita pocket split in two, naan, etc.)
2 to 3 large chard leaves (or other greens, such as kale or spinach)
3 slices prosciutto or deli-sliced ham
3 to 4 slices provolone cheese
Olive oil cooking spray

METHOD:

Preheat a grill or grill pan on high. In a small bowl, combine peppers and mustard. Use a fork to mash them into a paste. Spread mixture over one side of one piece of flatbread.

Arrange chard over mustard, then top with prosciutto and cheese. Top with remaining flatbread. Spritz top of sandwich with cooking spray, then place it (oiled side down) on grill or grill pan. Cook for 2 to 3 minutes or until grill marks form on bottom. Reduce heat on one side of the grill to the lowest setting. If using a grill pan, reduce burner heat to low.

Spritz top of sandwich with cooking spray, then use a spatula to carefully flip sandwich. If using a grill, move sandwich to cooler side. Close grill and cook until cheese is melted, about 3 to 4 minutes. Cut sandwich into quarters to serve.

COURTESY OF THE CANADIAN PRESS

entertainment

Sabrina, the Teenage Witch star Caroline Rhea and her longtime boyfriend, Costaki Economopoulos, are expecting their first child, People.com reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

New generation of gaming

Wii Fit aims to bring families together

By **DARREN KRAUSE**
for Metro Toronto

It was 9 p.m. last Sunday night; my girlfriend just returned home from an exhaustive hour of lacrosse.

With a quick glance and forced smile, I acknowledge her arrival and then fix my eyes back on Sonic And The Secret Rings, a game on my new Wii — a game system I stood in line 30 minutes to buy on a recent rainy Saturday morning at a Toys R Us in Calgary with my eight-year-old son ... two years after the first Wii system was launched in Canada.

"Let's play (Mario and Sonic At The) Olympics," she said. "I want to get better at it."

A nirvana sought since I was a pre-pubescent boy had now arrived — I had found a mate to share in my joy of video games.

The next question was: Why Wii and not the two Xboxes we have in the house?

Simple, according to Matt Ryan, spokesperson for Nintendo Canada — they've catered to "mom."

"(Nintendo) knows that mom makes a lot of decisions on what the family does for fun, what the family does to keep themselves together, and to play together," said Ryan.

"Nintendo needs to market its products to women in order to tap into that Chief Household Officer."

Funny thing is, my partner only rubber-stamped the Wii purchase once I proved the entire family could actively participate.

It's also why 34-year-old Calgary mom of two, Natalie Young, picked up a Wii last Christmas, and why she's bounced between sold-out stores to find Nintendo's recently released and elusive Wii Fit.

"I wanted the Wii Fit for myself because in my busy schedule with two kids it's hard to get out and exercise. With the Wii-Fit I could do it at home and even get the kids involved, too."

Physical activity is one of the catalysts for Wii's recent domination of the gaming market. In Canada last year, the Nintendo Wii and portable DS system have outsold all other gaming platforms combined.

"Women seemed to really embrace the idea of having a video-game experience that was not only fun, but was also involved in physical activity," Ryan said, noting that the violent, sedentary and anti-social have been the stigma attached to video gaming that Nintendo wanted to dispel.

The goal was to make gaming inviting to everyone from five to 95 and create a larger video-gaming market with women a large part of that new market — and they've done it.

The fact my partner and I have played our new Wii every night since its purchase (and a plan to get a Wii Fit when budget allows), is evidence enough for me.

Like I said ... nirvana.

Wii Fit brings exercise into home

Wii Fit
Publisher: Nintendo
Platforms: Wii
Rating: E — Everyone
Game type: Sports
Rating: ** (out of five)**

GAME ON
JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN
jonathankuehlein@metronews.ca

»What's the premise?

Step on to the new Wii Balance Board and have some fun getting healthier through a series of activities and exercises divided up into four main areas: Yoga, strength training, aerobics and balance games. Burn some calories, improve your balance and get a little stronger doing everything from a Sun Salutation to tightrope walking to ski jumping and more.

A Wii Balance board

»This game is most similar to...?

The use of the innovative Balance Board makes this one all its own

»Is it suitable for younger gamers?

My five-year-old took Wii Fit for a spin and he liked some of the aerobic activities like stepping and balance games like heading soccer balls and using the hula-hoop. As is often the case with the Wii, it's nice to see kids up and moving around while gaming.

»One player or more?

More than one person can have a Wii Fit profile and benefit from some daily training, however the only two-player element that was evident in hours of reviewing was jogging which only requires a pair of Wii-motes.

»The (not-so) secret to success is...?

Don't get discouraged. Try not to hurl the board out your window when it tells you you've got the fitness age of a much older person or that your balance is so bad you ought to be walking into walls.

»What's missing?

Wii Fit and the Wii Balance Board will make you break a sweat in many of the activities offered.

Gatorade and a towel. If you earnestly try at most of the activities in Wii Fit, you'll break a sweat and get your heart pumping.

»And in the end?

Wii Fit is a refreshing change from everyday gaming with real potential for health benefits and the new Balance Board is a superb new gaming peripheral full of potential.

For more video game reviews, check out the Game On column at metronews.ca.

BY *THE NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING AUTHOR ANN BRASHARES

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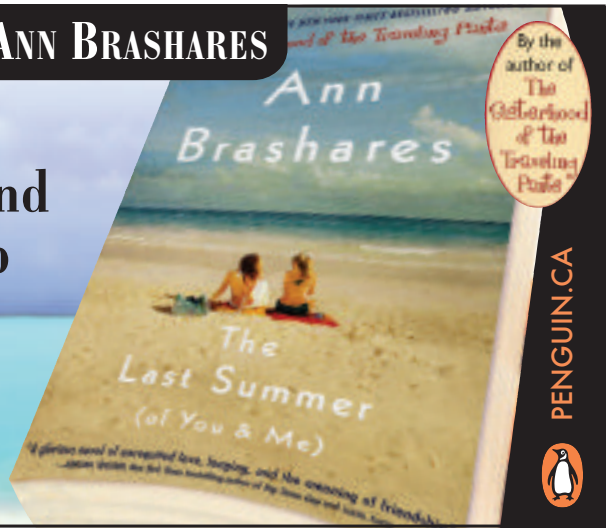
"A perfect summer novel."—The Vancouver Sun



PENGUIN.CA

Filmmaker Robert Rodriguez, left, of Grindhouse and From Dusk Til Dawn fame, is shopping to networks Women in Chains!, a women's prison drama starring Rose McGowan, which Rodriguez will probably direct.

SOURCE: EW.COM

people

Xzibit mourns loss of child

DEATH In a heart-wrenching post on his MySpace blog, rap star Xzibit announced that his newborn son, Xavier Kingston Joiner, who arrived prematurely on May 15, died Monday morning from lung failure.

"This week was extremely difficult for him because his lungs were not strong enough to handle regular oxygen on his own," the rapper writes. "Xavier passed away this morning (Monday) at 3:30 a.m. and I must tell you this, it is unnatural [sic] for a parent to bury a child."

people

Adoption finalized for Madonna

Madonna

WAITING A Malawi judge has at long last officially approved the singer and Guy Ritchie's adoption of David Banda more than a year and a half after the duo picked up the boy at an orphanage in the south African nation, BBC News Online reports. Neither Mr. or Mrs. Ritchie was present in court for the final ruling, but the government staffer who monitored the duo's interaction with the boy was present.

music

Big names coming to 2008 MMVAs

AWARDS MuchMusic announced yesterday an A-list group of performers for the 19th Annual MuchMusic Video Awards to be held on June 15. Chart toppers Rihanna, Girlicious, Simple Plan, Kardinal Offishall featuring Akon, Flo Rida, and illScarlett are set to fire up the stage, live at this year's event. METRO NEWS SERVICES

STEPHEN LOVEKIN/GETTY IMAGES

FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES

DIMA GAVRYSH/GETTY IMAGES

From left, Jimmy Fallon, who will take over for Conan O'Brien on Late Night next year, Jason Alexander and Martin Short will be headlining Just For Laughs in July.

Laughs lineup star-studded

Fallon, Alexander, Short to headline T.O. comedy fest

Jimmy Fallon will practise warming up audiences ahead of his upcoming Late Night talk show gig as he hosts a comedy gala during Toronto's Just for Laughs Festival this summer.

Organizers announced Tuesday that Fallon, a mop-topped former SNL cast member who is to replace Conan O'Brien on Late Night next year, will headline a show at Massey Hall during the festival, which runs July 23 to July 27.

SCTV alumnus Martin Short of Hamilton and Jason Alexander of Seinfeld fame will also helm galas at Massey Hall during the festival, which is into its second year and stems from Montreal's long-running Just for Laughs summer event.

Craig Robinson, who plays Darryl Philbin on the American version of The Office, will perform at Fallon's show, as will Montreal native Sugar Sammy and Toronto duo the Doo-Wops.

Short's showcase has a lineup of Newfoundland and Labrador star Shaun Majumder, Australian talent Adam Hills and American co-medians Elon Gold and Joey Kola.

On Alexander's docket is Toronto-based Gerry Dee of Last Comic Standing, as well as notable American actor-co-medians Jeff Ross, Kevin Hart and American stand-up sensation Wendy Liebman.

The festival also features a concert from American ventriloquist Jeff Dunham, two ethnic-themed shows (The Asian Invasion and Wiseguys), a club series that includes talent from the galas and free outdoor programming.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

popular event

» Organizers say last year's inaugural festival attracted 60,000 revellers to the outdoor shows and 20,000 fans to the indoor events.

Ex-employee testifies against R. Kelly

'I10 per cent sure' singer appeared in sex tape: Assistant

A former employee of R. Kelly testified recently that she was "110 per cent sure" the Grammy-winning R&B singer appeared with an underage girl on a sex tape at the centre of his child pornography trial.

Lindsey Perryman, who said she worked as a record producer and personal assistant to the singer and his family off and on from 2000-2007, told jurors that she first saw the tape in December 2007, after being approached by prosecutors.

At that time, she said, she was not sure it was Kelly on the video and didn't want to believe it because he was a great boss and "very, very good to me."

"I was in shock and I wanted to be 110 per cent sure," so looked at an album cover with Kelly on it before viewing the videotape a second time, Perryman said. She said she then was sure it was Kelly; she also identified the alleged victim, who had visited Kelly's studio.

Kelly

Kelly, 41, is charged with 14 counts of child pornography for allegedly videotaping himself having sex with an underage girl. He has pleaded not guilty and faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

Kelly's lawyers have said he is not on the tape, even noting that the singer has a mole on his back and the man on the tape does not. The alleged victim, now 23, has denied she is on the tape.

Two other witnesses have testified that the female participant on the graphic 27-minute videotape was the same person prosecutors say was as young as 13 at the time. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Get Smart up against Love Guru

In this corner: an incompetent superspy wielding a shoe phone. In the other corner: a happy-go-lucky guru who wants to save your love life. On June 20, Steve Carell's latest broad comedy, Get Smart, will bow in at least 3,000 theatres against Mike Myers' latest broad comedy, The Love Guru, which bows in at least 3,000 theatres. EW.COM

A FORMAL APOLOGY TO THE CITIZENS OF TORONTO

We at *Evil Dead: The Musical* would like to acknowledge a very serious mistake on our part and would like to formally apologize to the city of Toronto for giving our show the worst name ever for a comedy.

We realize now that the words **EVIL** and **DEAD** do not immediately make one think of a comedy. To many Torontonians, these words are more likely to make one think of something either Evil or Dead (two things renowned for their lack of comedic value).

But make no mistake… *Evil Dead: The Musical* is a comedy! It received unanimous 4 star reviews from The Star, Sun, Globe, NOW and EYE. It also won the Dora Audience Choice Award for Toronto's Favourite Show. And yet after all of this, the title still doesn't adequately explain that this show is in fact hysterically funny.

In an ideal world, we would use adjectives such as "*hilarious*", "*campy*" and "*life-changingly funny*" to better title this show. Unfortunately, we can't change the name to **HILARIOUS CAMPY LIFE-CHANGINGLY FUNNY: THE MUSICAL**, simply because we have already spent a bunch on posters and t-shirts.

So while the name will stay as is, you will just have to accept our apology. And in an obviously transparent attempt to receive the forgiveness of this great city, we would like to make you an offer.

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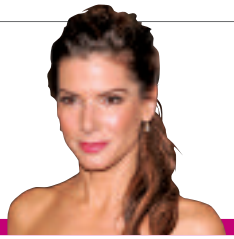
* Some restrictions apply. Group Discounts do not apply to Saturday 7pm prformances.



A woman whose car struck actress Sandra Bullock's, left, SUV last month has been placed on probation for one year. Lucile Gatchell pleaded guilty Tuesday to driving under the influence of alcohol.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

television

MVP finds new life on ABC

SERIES MVP: The Secret Lives Of Hockey Wives, the cancelled CBC nighttime soap about the sordid private lives of NHL players, is about to get some massive American exposure — it's airing on ABC following the live broadcast of the daytime Emmy Awards next month, The Canadian Press reports.

The inaugural episode is set to air after the Emmys on June 20.

gossip

Lohan's dad slams lesbian rumours

PEOPLE Actress Lindsay Lohan's father, Michael, has slammed reports claiming he said she is a lesbian.

"I never said that," Michael Lohan told the Mad Dog and Billie show on 99.9 MIX FM. " ... That was totally twisted and misconstrued by US Weekly (magazine) and (blogger) Perez Hilton."

METRO NEWS SERVICES/ PLANET MAURIE NEWS

The next big thing

Tokio Hotel produces weekly web shows

CHRIS PIZZELLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tokio Hotel band members, from left, Tom Kaulitz, Gustav Schafer, Bill Kaulitz and Georg Listing are creating Beatles-like hysteria among the teen set in their native Germany.

Move over Jonas Brothers, the Kaulitz twins are moving in.

The 18-year-old Kaulitz brothers comprise half of Tokio Hotel, a German glam-pop quartet that is creating Beatles-like hysteria among the teen set in their native land. They've sold close to three million CDs and DVDs in their native country, and are hoping to replicate that rabid fan base in the United States.

"They're the stepping stone between the tween stuff and My Chemical Romance," says Andrew Gyger, senior product manager for Virgin Entertainment Group, a few days after the foursome appeared at Virgin's Times Square store in New York in May to promote its English-language album, Scream.

"The in-store was massive in terms of sales and the amount of girls that showed up," Gyger says, relaying stories of at least one girl fainting and screaming teens lining up around the block for the event. "The band seems to have come out of nowhere."

Actually, Tokio Hotel — made up of front man Bill Kaulitz, his brother, guitarist Tom Kaulitz, bassist Georg Listing, 20, and drummer Gustav Schafer, 19 — came out of the Internet. A YouTube search shows 123,000 video listings compared to 88,100 for the Jonas Bros. or 21,000 for a grizzled veteran like Bruce Springsteen. To further sate their young fans' appetite, for the last six months the band has produced weekly episodes of Tokio Hotel TV for its U.S. website.

For Tokio Hotel, the visual is as vital as the vocals and is propelled by lead singer Bill Kaulitz's anime look: straightened, teased black hair; heavy eye makeup that accentuates his delicate, androgynous, doll-like features; chain necklaces and vintage rock and roll T-shirts. He's so thin he appears almost one dimensional on stage, adding to the cartoon-like appeal. But to hear him tell it, his look comes by way of Transylvania, not Japan.

When he was 10, Bill Kaulitz dressed as a vampire for Halloween and adopted the styling year-round.

The fan frenzy in Germany has reached epic proportions, such as when a group of teen girls delivered a fan letter that was more than 11 kilometres long. After seeing a young fan repeatedly at shows in different cities, the band later learned she was a runaway who had left home to follow the group.

"It's still crazy to us," Bill Kaulitz says of the attention.

After witnessing the spectacle at the band's February appearance at New York's Gramercy Theatre, Amy Doyle, MTV's senior VP of music and talent, became a convert.

"I could not believe the line outside of screaming teen girls," she said. "It reminded me of the audience of the late '90s and 2000 for Backstreet Boys and 'N Sync."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Tickets required for June 14. See admission details below.

Free and general admission:
Admission to **June 2, 7 and 11** concerts is first-come, first-seated. No tickets necessary. Doors open 15 minutes before all concerts.
*Tickets for **June 14** must be obtained in advance and will be available to the public on Thurs June 5 at 10am IN PERSON ONLY at the Tafelmusik Box Office, 427 Bloor St W. Maximum 2 tickets per person. (Note: all tickets were given away within minutes last year!)

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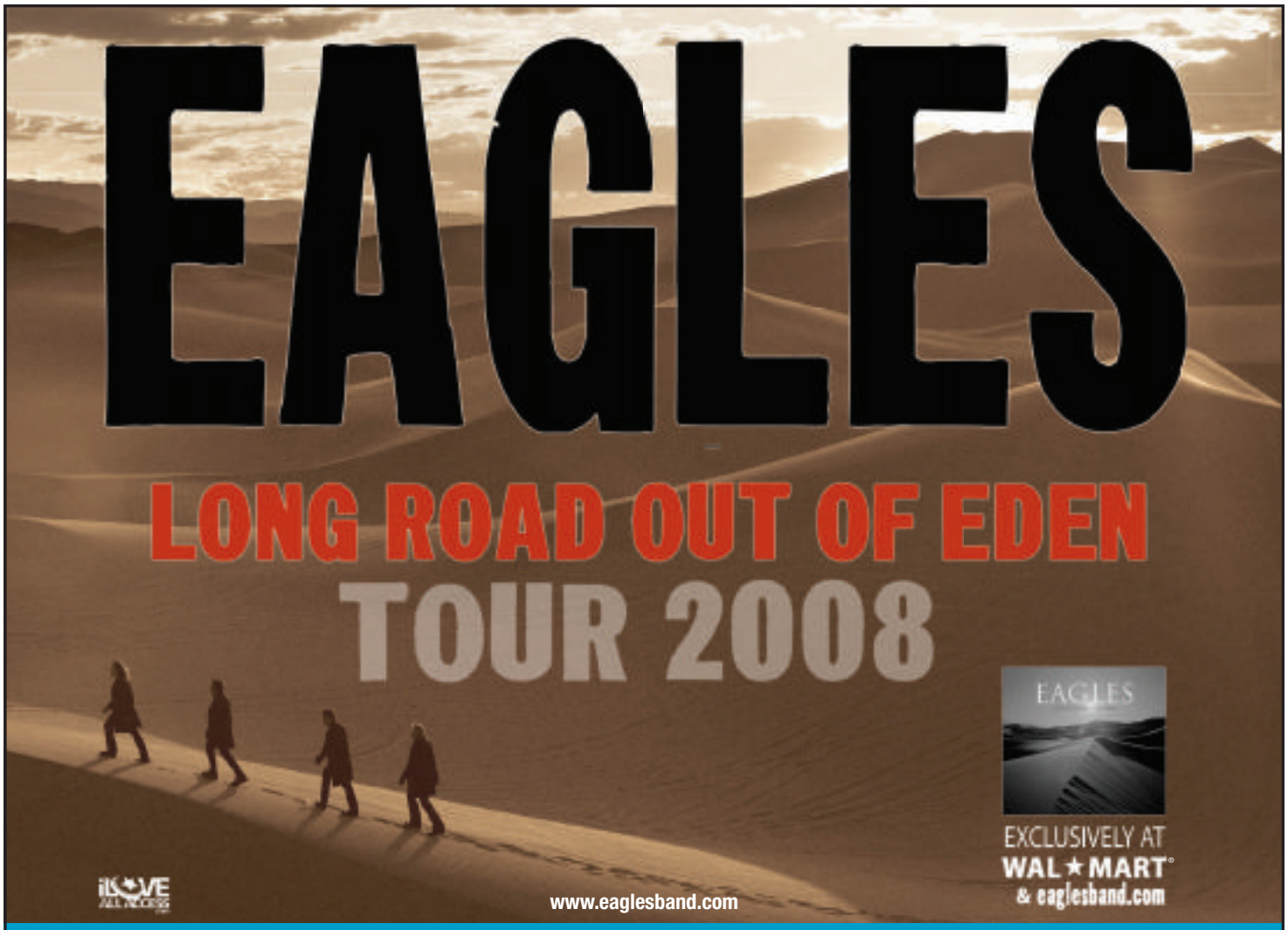

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Girl looks at teens' dark sides

ON TV

SANDY CAETANO
sandy.caetano@metronews.ca

It seems the dethroned queen bee Blair Waldorf is back in school, giving Manhattan prep-school teens a lot to talk about this semester.

Gossip Girl is back on CTV with Part 2 of Season 1 featuring five new episodes, the first hitting TV sets across the country tomorrow night.

Based on the best-selling series of young-adult novels by Cecily von Ziegesar, Gossip Girl is an hour-long drama surrounding the lives of privileged prep-school kids.

Being a teen in today's day and age isn't exactly the way it used to be 10 or 15 years ago. It has a lot more to do with fitting in and being popular — who has the newest handbag by Prada or Dolce and Gabbana, who is wearing the latest summer fashions from Aritzia, or who's sporting a trendy pair of Diesel or Lacoste shoes.

From fashion to music to food — times are changing so fast it's hard to keep up. And gone are the days of brown paper-bagging it. Today's kids have to eat out — it could be a fast-food joint or something a little more upscale like sushi. Whatever it takes to fit in.

That's the premise of Gossip Girl. A bunch of teens all trying to find their own niche, whether it's being a part of the popular snobby girls' club or the nose-stuck-in-a-book kind. They're trying to find their own way.

We learn during the first part of the season that these students get all their latest gossip from the blog of the all-knowing ultra secretive Gossip Girl. No one knows who this Gossip Girl is since she's done such a fabulous job at keeping her identity under wraps. But everyone in this exclusive and complex clique relies on her website and text messages for all the juicy rumours.

CTV PHOTO

Leighton Meester (Blair) and Blake Lively (Serena) star in Gossip Girl.

Now keeping track of what's happening in all of these people's lives isn't easy, but someone has to keep these wealthy kids in the loop about all the backstabbing and scandals going on.

At the end of the last episode, Blair couldn't deal with all the rumours floating around about her — she was losing her friends, her boyfriend and who she was, so much so that she decided to leave. You learn quickly how vicious jealous teens can be when they want something you have. Especially the girls.

It doesn't matter what it is, if they want it bad enough, chances are they'll do anything to get it. Like in this week's episode, The Blair Bitch Project, Blair musters up the strength to return to school, and to try and climb back to the top of her "in-crowd" where the not-so-rich Jenny has taken a seat.

Meanwhile, siblings Serena and Eric get used to their blended families living together while their mom prepares to marry Chuck's father.

Sandy Caetano covers reality shows and has interviewed stars like Leanne Rimes, Lionel Richie, Paul Anka, Good Charlotte and more.

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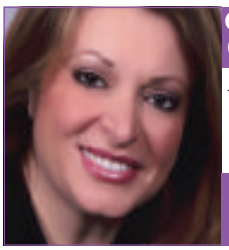

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Distill: A handmade goodies haven

Distill art/fashion gallery moving on up

ONE OF Toronto's best sources for Canadian fashion and art, **Distill**, has moved to a larger spot within **The Historic Distillery District** (Building #47). Expect to find almost double the volume of fab clothing, accessories and jewellery as well as additional display space for original artwork, ceramic pieces and lots more handmade goodies.

Everything in the airy fresh space is handcrafted with most items being one or few of a kind yet still affordable. Whether you're looking for a memorable gift by a local designer or a hip wearable treat for yourself, stop by and visit the new digs. Warning: shoppers are unlikely to leave empty-handed. Some of FF's faves include: screen-printed hats by **Jenna Rose**, quirky Canadiana jewellery from **Wine on Sundays**, creatively recycled clothing by **Susan Harris** and swoon-worthy bags from local bag gurus **Jack & Marjorie**.

Where: Building #47, The Distillery District, 55 Mill St. Visit: *www.distill-gallery.com.*

FRUGAL FASHIONISTA
NATHALIE-ROZE FISCHER
nrfrugalista@rogers.com

Sassy Little Craft Show

ANYONE INTERESTED in indie crafts showcased in a licensed venue, should pop by the **Victory Cafe** (581 Markham St.) in the Annex this Saturday night (May 31, 7 to 12 p.m.) for the **Sassy Little Craft Show**. Shoppers can sip a cocktail, while perusing the cool handcrafted jewellery, bags, craft kits, buttons, saucy soaps, greeting cards and more on offer by a mix of over 15 local indie crafter/designers. Admission is free.

Smart Set

SHOPPERS KEEN to freshen up their look to match the gentler temperatures, should scoot over to **Smart Set** where lots of cute tops, denims, cropped spring jackets and more await frugalistas on the sale racks. FF's faves: cross-front rayon blouses with fluttery sleeves in tourquoise or plum for just $14.99 each (reg. $34). But: do check out the new arrivals as well, particularly the dresses — most priced under $60. Halter styles, smock dresses, retro prints and strapless frocks that are chic enough to be worn to the office or even a wedding reception.

Distill, located in the Distillery District, has moved to a larger spot with almost double the items.

Nathalie-Roze Fischer is a designer, writer, bargain-hound and DIY enthusiast. Visit her online at www.nathalie-roze.com or at her indie shop/studio in Leslieville (1015 Queen St. East).

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Actors could strike next

IDIOT BOX
RICK McGINNIS
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

STRUCK DUMB: THE SEQUEL: Pretty much the worst thing that could happen to the TV industry right now is another strike of key talent, but just such a catastrophe has been looming since before the writers effectively shot the kneecaps out of the 2007-08 season with their winterlong walk-out. The pair of unions that represent Hollywood's acting talent have been mumbling about a strike for months now, sounding not unlike the guy in Office Space who threatened to burn the office down if he doesn't get his stapler back. According to a story in yesterday's USA Today, the lesser of the two unions — the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists — has reached a tentative deal with the representatives of the producers, the sticking point being the same one that flared up into the writers' strike: fees for streamed and downloaded Internet content.

The deal affects "a handful of prime-time TV shows such as Curb Your Enthusiasm" and "will last through June 2011 if it is approved AFTRA's national board and ratified by members." While I'm glad that Larry David is clear to work through into the next decade, the fact that this was the biggest show that AFTRA could claim success for gives you some idea how important restarting negotiations with the Screen Actors Guild are if a strike turns fall 2008 into the season where everyone breaks down and buys a Blu-ray player.

After the rich, velvety goodness that was the writers' strike, I'm anticipating another body blow to primetime with an avidity that verges on indecent. The sclerotic business television business model has to crumble sooner or later, but it'll get on with it a bit more sharpish with a little of what management guru types call "creative destruction." The best case scenario is that business as usual will be postponed so long that Fox will have to cast the children of the current stars of 24 to paper over the show's long hiatus, while selling the show as a bulk-purchase download — the full season for just 24 bucks.

YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK? The New York Times reported yesterday that TiVo — still struggling for market share even though its very name has become a verb — has struck a deal with the Chicago Tribune that will allow subscribers to access the recommendations of the paper's TV critic, Maureen Ryan, and have their machine automatically download them. The service will only be available for the roughly 100,000 TiVo subscribers in the Chicago area, and the managing editor of the paper wistfully opined that "maybe we'll get a few people to do the unthinkable and subscribe to the newspaper."

Hell, I'm willing to offer the same basic service without a TiVo subscription — or even the use of a PVR. Just to get you started: a) turn off your TV; b) crack open a beer; c) practise your tuba playing on the front lawn; d) chuck rocks at the neighbours' kids; e) the beer thing again; f) recite loudly from dirty limerick book in comical accents; g) beer thing; h) do not resist arrest. There — a whole evening killed, and commercial-free, to boot!

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 5/29/08	265	353	2	TVO Insulation (N)		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		P.O.W.		Masterworks		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV ET Canada	Entertainment	The Office	Last Comic Standing (N)				The Office	News (N)
	215	343	4	OMN1 Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC 22 Minutes	Just-Gags	The Nature of Things		China's Sexual Revolution		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY Friends	Hollywood	The Bachelorette (N)				Battlestar Galactica		News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV So You Think You Can Dance (N)				Lost The Oceanic Six find themselves closer to rescue.				News (N)
	218	345	11	CH The Insider (N)	E! News	Red Carpet	Style-Famous	Women of Sex and the City: The E! True Hollywood Story				News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO Panorama en direct		Le Rouge et le Noir		*Monsieur Fabré* (1951, Drame) Pierre Fresnay, Elisabeth Hardy.				Volt
	-	-	14	- Law & Order: SVU		News (N)		News (N)		King	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN Scrubs	George Lopez	*Destiny Turns On the Radio* ★ (1995, Drama)				To Serve and Protect		Grill Rm.
	-	387	16	CBS Inside Edition	Hollywood	Big Bang Th	How I Met	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Without a Trace (HDTV)		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC The Insider (N)	Entertainment	The Office	Last Comic Standing (N)				The Office	News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Lost		Lost The Oceanic Six find themselves closer to rescue.				News
	219	346	20	ACH-B Wheel-Fortune	Degrassi: Next	Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Grey's Anatomy		Medium		News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	So You Think You Can Dance (N)				Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS News-Lehrer	Goodnight Swt.	Planet Tales (DVS)		Most Honorable Son		The First Battle		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Smallville "Kara" (HDTV)		Supernatural (HDTV)		CW11 News at Ten		Family Guy
	296	654	331	SBK Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil		News (N)	Jeopardy!	Frasier	Frasier	Cheers
	298	653	332	TLA Reba	Reba	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Family Guy	Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Smallville
news	502	390	26	NW News (N)	Newman	The Hour		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		National
	500	500	33	CNN Lou Dobbs Tonight		CNN Election Center		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB Kudlow & Company		Fast Money		Cash Flow		Inside Video Game Industry		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net MLB Baseball Los Angeles Dodgers at New York Mets. From Shea Stadium in Flushing, N.Y.						Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet Con.
	400	400	30	TSN That's Hockey	Off the Record	E:60 (N)		NBA Basketball: Western Conference Final Game 5 -- Spurs at Lakers				
	411	457	58	OLN Exploration	Videos	Everest: Man	Jet Set	Mark Williams' Big Bangs (N)		Don't Forget Your Passport		Pilot Guides
	417	406	81	SC Pinks (HDTV)	Prelude-Dream	Monster Jam (N)		Pinks -- All Out		Low Life	Low Life	Pinks (HDTV)
family	551	542	25	YTV Malcolm-Mid.	Prank Patrol	Fries That?	Mon. Warriors	Futurama	Shadow Raider	Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL George-Jungle	Road Runner	Scooby-Doo	Futurama	Robot Chicken	Tripping-Rift	Robot Chicken	Robot Chicken	Tripping-Rift
	556	540	51	FAM That's-Raven	Smart Guy	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	The Suite Life
cable variety	602	567	27	W Will & Grace	Friends	Divine Design	House	Confidential	Save Us-House	Wasted!	Save Us-House	House
	570	580	29	MM Kaya	Born to Be	Muchmusic Countdown			MuchTopTens		Video on Trial	Kaya
	615	520	31	A&E CSI: Miami (HDTV)		The First 48		The First 48 (HDTV) (N)		Crime 360 (N)		The First 48
	700	800	35	TLN Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	The Best of Pavarotti & Friends				The Sopranos (SS)		Raymond
	571	581	36	MMM mmmtop	Back In	Storytellers Mary J. Blige. (N)		Popaganda		Gene Simmons	Gene Simmons	Listed
	575	583	38	CMT (6) The Ultimate Epics		Living, Dream	Living, Dream	Reba	Hope & Faith	Home Improve.	Roseanne	Dedicated (N)
	616	521	39	SHO ReGenesis "The Trials"		Intelligence (DVS)		G-Spot	Exes & Ohs	The Shield		House
	620	523	40	BVO From the Spirit	In the Mind ...	World of M.G. Vassanji		*Anna Karenina* ★★ (1997, Romance) Sophie Marceau.				Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC Women on Top	Til Debt-Part	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Last 10	Bulging Brides	Biggest Loser Australia		Rich Poor
	522	506	43	HIS NCIS "Marine Down"		Machines of War		1917: The Missing		NCIS "Marine Down"		Crime Stories
	625	548	44	COM Air Farce	22 Minutes	Laughs	Rick Mercer	The Simpsons	South Park	VIP	Jon Dore Show	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G House Hunters	Buy Me	Holmes on Homes		Disaster DIY	The Big Flip	Handyman Superstar		Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS Family Guy	Family Guy	Friends	Friends	*Payback* ★★ (1999, Action) Mel Gibson, Gregg Henry.				Seinfeld
	576	582	49	BET 106 & Park	The Boot	Black Carpet	BET News (N)	Rip the Runway '08		Rip the Runway		The Boot
	627	528	50	SPC Stargate SG-1		Star Trek: Voyager		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Night Stalker		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV MTV Screen	Cribs	4REAL	Parent Control	Made "Ballroom Dancer"		Made Three sports.		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP Inside Hollywood		ET Canada	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier	Family Guy
	603	561	56	FOOD Boy Grill	Licence to Grill	Restaurant Makeover		Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Secret Life of	Secret Life of	Ace of Cakes
	261	394	60	V Murder, She Wrote		May-December	Keeping Up	*Stay Hungry* ★★★ (1976, Comedy-Drama) Jeff Bridges.				Emily-Moon
	621	527	63	STR Look-A-Like	Hollywood	TMZ (N)	eTalk	Scott Baio Is 45 ... and Single		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		eTalk
	553	546	65	TRE Ni Hao, Kai-lan	Nght Grdn	Wiggle-Learn	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Big Comfy	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears
	115	711	101	TVA Les Gags	*Le Trouillard du Far West* ★★ (1956)			Héros "Rien à cacher" (HDTV)		Le TVA 22 heures (SC)		Sucré-salé
	126	730	102	RDI Dominique Poirier en direct		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		Le Club des ex	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	CLT The West Wing		*Broken Lullaby* (1994, Romance) Mel Harris, Rob Stewart.				Traders		The West Wing
	300	601	301	M1 (7:15) *Nitro* (2007, Action) Guillaume Lemay-Thivierge.				David McCullough		*Music and Lyrics* ★★★ (2007)		
	305	612	306	PIX *Stealing*	(7:20) *The Desperados* (1969, Western)			*The Messenger: The Story of Joan of Arc* ★★ (1999, Historical Drama)				

critics' corner

Lost

Crank up the DVR, or prepare for a long evening in front of the tube. The season finale, which finds the survivors and the "freighter people" getting ready to rumble, clocks in at a whopping three hours. But for those who weathered the long wait for the show's return, it'll be worth it, at least in terms of drama. Matthew Fox and Jorge Garcia star in "There's No Place Like Home." 8 PM on ABC

Mark Williams' Big Bangs

Mark Williams ends his limited series with, well, a big bang. He's made it to the modern history of explosives, and to help viewers understand his passion, he joins some British commandos on a mission. Also, Williams visits the atom bomb test site in New Mexico and participates in a special effects explosion inside the Arctic Circle. 9 PM on OLN

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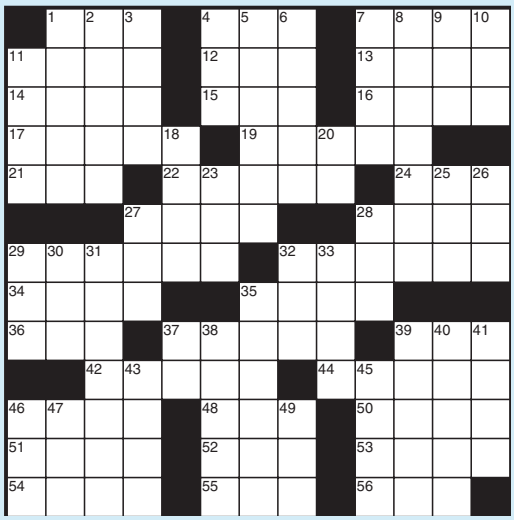

down »

1 Metric pounds
2 Common phrase
3 Marshal Dillon
4 Lid
5 Soapbox mounter
6 Fare counter
7 Crazy, to Pedro
8 Forsake
9 Morass
10 Watch
11 Italian wine city
18 Pull along
20 Opry's loc.
23 Insult, slangily
25 Tar's reply
26 In style
27 Damage the finish
28 Yang complement
29 Kind of jacket
30 Ms. Thurman of film
31 Domed building
32 Vase, often
33 River into the Seine
35 Sci-fi weapon (2 wds.)
37 Dr. — Manchu
38 Upright
39 Secondhand tire
40 Licorice herb
41 Tiny amounts
43 Urges Fido on
45 Tibetan monastery figure
46 Knock sharply
47 Outstanding
49 Hall-of-Famer Mel —

across »

1 Basinger or Novak
4 Turkey or cat
7 Science rooms
11 Verdi opus
12 Bauxite or galena
13 Band member
14 Mask feature
15 Host — Sajak
16 Confine
17 Comb part
19 Wyoming range
21 Suffix for hero
22 Dress up
24 Pond maker
27 California's — Woods
28 Toy on a string (hyph.)
29 Wall paintings
32 Spliced
34 Love, to Pablo
35 Sprinkle
36 Fiber-rich grain
37 Is scared of
39 Informer
42 Loan-sharking
44 "Maria —" (Jimmy Dorsey tune)
46 Sari wearer
48 Narcissus' flaw
50 Amino —
51 Down Under rockers
52 Mowed
53 Throng
54 Pod contents
55 Tunnel blaster
56 Tarzan's nanny

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A young man will cause problems. Everything will return to normal soon. A coward will shock everyone by taking action.

GEMINI | May 22-June 21
Be ready for some frustrating conversations. You'll have to use your ability to understand motives. You'll decide to test an absurd notion.

CANCER | June 22-July 22
You'll be forced to set boundaries. Nobody will be very happy about a big mistake. Make plans to reach out to a friend.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 23
You're able to relax with a member of the opposite sex. Have a good laugh about silliness. A mischief maker asks for help.

VIRGO | Aug. 24-Sept. 22
Love will bloom for an older female. Tone down your approach to a joker. Someone will back you up in a fresh scheme.

LIBRA | Sep. 23-Oct. 23
Someone precious asks you for a favour. Making a graceful exit will be the best choice. Depression comes from having extra work.

SCORPIO | Oct. 24- Nov. 22
A new schedule will make people uncomfortable. Ask a bureaucrat some serious questions. Avoid having too many drastic ideas.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 23- Dec. 21
Don't push anyone around in order to get ahead. Seek a miracle by taking responsibility. A woman will heed your call.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 20
A pleasant meeting will cheer you. You'll have to work with a team to get a job done. Rules will inhibit the resolution of your desires.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 21-Feb. 18
A suspicious man will give you the benefit of a doubt. Get ready to shake things up. You can implement your secret plan.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20
A woman will say something about love. Acknowledge an error. A collaborator will appear at the right time.

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5		7	1		9			
8					6	9		
	9				2		3	
	3			4				6
	4						9	
6				2			1	
	7		2				4	
		6	8					5
			3		4	7		8

instructions »

The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

solve time »

Under 13 minutes	Genius
13-17 minutes	Scholar
17-21	Smart
21-25	Pretty good
More than 25	Keep practising

previous answer

4	1	3	7	8	5	6	9	2
2	6	7	1	9	3	4	8	5
8	5	9	2	4	6	1	7	3
5	4	2	9	1	8	3	6	7
7	8	1	3	6	2	9	5	4
9	3	6	4	5	7	2	1	8
3	2	5	6	7	1	8	4	9
6	9	8	5	3	4	7	2	1
1	7	4	8	2	9	5	3	6

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Afternoon	Tonight	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Sunny. 23°	Partly cloudy. 10°	80% Rain. 21°/ 15°	70% Showers. 18°/ 12°	40% Showers. 18°/ 10°

Temperature
Normals
High: 20.7°
Low: 9.2°

Records
High: 32.5°/1987
Low: 1.7°/1966

Sunrise: 5:41 a.m.
Sunset: 8:51 p.m.
Moonrise: 2:19 a.m.
Moonset: 2:48 p.m.

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celebritybuzz

EVAN AGOSTINI/ GETTY IMAGES

Presidential wedding

Ellen DeGeneres and Portia de Rossi may have just found the ideal site for their upcoming nuptials: U.S. President George W. Bush's Texas ranch.

The U.S. talk show host was interviewing the president's newly-married daughter, Jenna Hager (née Bush), when Jenna showed off a picture of the ceremony, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Ellen said: "So, the ranch was a great place to get married – it looked like nobody could fly over and get pictures or bother you, really! So, can Portia and I borrow it for our wedding? Can we get the ranch?"

Sitting next to her mother Laura Bush, Jenna laughed and replied: "Sure!"

Ellen and Portia's nuptials are set to be a star-studded affair.

SexyBack star Justin Timberlake recently offered to pen a song for the ceremony.

Appearing on Ellen's show, Justin said: "You should have an original wedding song – I think it's only fitting. Write down everything you want to say to Portia and Portia write down everything you want to say to Ellen and I'll put it to music and it will be amazing!"

Metro News Services

NEILSON BARNARD/GETTY IMAGES

Witherspoon's Jake ultimatum

Reese Witherspoon refuses to move in with Jake Gyllenhaal until they get married, femalefirst.co.uk reports

The Oscar-winning actress and the Brokeback Mountain star recently splashed out on a $7-million Californian mansion together but Reese wants them to tie the knot before they live together.

A source close to the actress – who has two children, Ava, eight, and four-year-old Deacon, with ex-husband Ryan Phillippe – said: "Reese doesn't want to live with Jake until they're married. She has very traditional values."

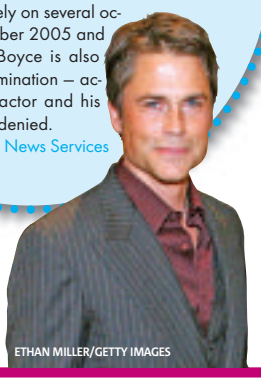
Metro News Services

Lowe drops chef lawsuit

Actor Rob Lowe has dropped a lawsuit filed against his former chef – after he reportedly agreed to provide information on two former nannies who have accused the star of sexual harassment, imdb.com reports.

Former child-minders Jessica Gibson and Laura Boyce filed the lawsuits against Lowe in April. Gibson alleged Lowe touched her inappropriately on several occasions between September 2005 and January 2008, while Boyce is also suing for wrongful termination – accusations both the actor and his wife Sheryl have denied.

Metro News Services



ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

Jackson covers up

Michael Jackson made a rare public appearance at an Ultimate Fighting Championship match in Las Vegas on Saturday – wearing his trademark veil, imdb.com reports.

The star – who is rumoured to be in talks for a spectacular show in the gambling mecca – appeared at the MGM Grand hotel for the fight wearing a black veil with only a thin gap for his eyes, which were covered by dark glasses.

Metro News Services

DAVE HOGAN/ GETTY IMAGES

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Dunst fought depression

Actress Kirsten Dunst has blasted reports she checked into rehab to tackle substance abuse issues, explaining she was depressed, imdb.com reports.

In her first interview since entering a Utah treatment centre last year, the Marie Antoinette star insists she spent six months trying to conquer the blues but eventually realized she needed help.

She tells E! News, "I didn't go to Cirque Lodge for alcohol abuse or drug abuse. I went there for depression. It was a good six months before I decided to go away. I was struggling, and I had the opportunity to go somewhere and take care of myself. I was fortunate to have the resources to do it. My friends and family thought it was a good idea, too. But I didn't know where to go. My doctor recommended Cirque Lodge."

Dunst admits speculation about her health and personal problems haven't helped her in her battle: "Depression is pretty serious and should not be gossiped about. There's been a lot of misrepresentation about what is going on in my life... (That's) very painful for my friends and family. Everyone feels like they have to defend me. They hear the rumours, and it puts them in a defensive position. Now that I'm feeling stronger, I'm prepared to say something."

Metro News Services

CARLOS ALVAREZ/ GETTY IMAGES

Sandler accused of stealing idea

Apparently, you don't mess with the guy who claims to have originally come up with the idea for your movie.

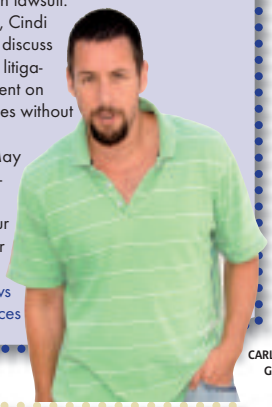
The author of a 2003 webzine, 2005 comic book and 2007 novel all titled The Hair-Raising Adventures Of Jayms Blonde has launched a legal salvo against Adam Sandler, seeking to halt the June 6 release of Don't Mess With The Zohan, E! News Online reports.

Ellis J. Pailet, a Louisiana attorney who represents author Robert W. Cabell, sent a cease-and-desist letter earlier this month to the comedian's camp, accusing Team Sandler of ripping off his client's ideas and threatening a full-blown lawsuit.

Sandler's publicist, Cindi Guagenti, declined to discuss the claims or potential litigation. "We don't comment on lawsuits, especially ones without merit," she said.

Pailet notes in a May 8 letter: "Your transformation of our client's gay character into your heterosexual character is not a fair use."

Metro News Services



CARLOS ALVAREZ/ GETTY IMAGES

Ifans denies summer wedding

Welsh actor Rhys Ifans has denied rumours he is set to marry his fiancée Sienna Miller in a summer ceremony this year, imdb.com reports.

The couple was reportedly preparing to wed in August – a year after Miller rejected his first proposal, when the Notting Hill star asked for her hand in marriage by sending her a cryptic message in Welsh, which read: "Marry The Misfit."

The Factory Girl star said "No" for the second time when Ifans asked again at her 26th birthday party in December – but she finally agreed to marry him on his third attempt in March.

Reports have since been rife that the couple is planning a low-key celebration in the coming months, but Ifans has dismissed the claims.

He tells Britain's Closer magazine, "I'm not marrying Sienna this summer. I'm taking a break at the moment and just want to chill out."

Metro News Services

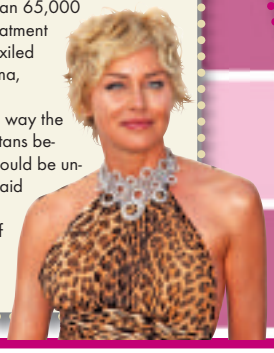
DAVE HOGAN/ GETTY IMAGES

Cinema boycotts Stone movies

A Chinese cinema chain says it will boycott Sharon Stone movies following her comments last Thursday (May 22) at Cannes that linked the country's disastrous May 12 earthquake – which to date has taken the lives of more than 65,000 – to "karma" and China's treatment of ethnic Tibetans and their exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, ew.com reports.

"I'm not happy about the way the Chinese are treating the Tibetans because I don't think anyone should be unkind to anyone else," Stone said in a red-carpet interview with Cable Entertainment News of Hong Kong.

Metro News Services



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